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Colorado Springs Independent

A NEW NORMAL

New York Times reporter John Schwartz says not all 'different' kids need a diagnosis

18

By Kirsten Akens

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MEXICAN GRILL

SliceOfLife

Matthew Schniper

Trinity Brewing Co. head brewer Tom Brown sums up the spirit of last weekend's saucy Saison Festival.

LongStoryShort

After interviewing *New York Times* reporter John Schwartz, I was struck by the similarities between his experiences and those of our local Mathis family. Even though John's son Joseph and the Mathis' daughter Coy have very different backgrounds (see our cover package starting on p. 18), their families have both struggled with systems that lag behind when it comes to issues of sexuality and gender.

Schwartz writes in his memoir *Oddly Normal* about a therapist Joseph saw on recommendation from his second-grade teacher. "We summoned our courage, walked into her office one day without Joe, and nervously told her we thought he might be gay," Schwartz writes.

"What a terrible thing to say about your son," she responded.

Kathryn Mathis, Coy's mom, says she's constantly having to clear up misconceptions about her transgender daughter.

"If your 5-year-old biologically born girl came up to you and said, 'I'm gonna wear this princess dress 'cause I'm a girl,' you wouldn't say, 'Oh, you're too young to know if you're a girl or not.' People always phrase it as [Coy's] too young to make such a life-changing choice, but it's not ... a choice at all. She doesn't know what transgender is. ... She's always felt like she was a girl and just happens to have a body that doesn't look like a girl."

At 13, Joseph attempted suicide. He survived, but not without scars.

At 6, Coy is just beginning to learn about life's challenges, but she's young enough that it's entirely possible for her to have a very different outcome.

*— **Kirsten Akens***

On the Cover

Illustration by graphic designer Tanya Shaw.

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Matt's hat makes him sparkle with retro sass.

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Eco stories inside!

ReLeaf

It's something of a heyday for marijuana lovers. Pew Research Center just released a poll showing that 52 percent of those contacted support the outright legalization of marijuana, the, ahem, highest amount ever. And in the face of some uncertainties, things seem to be looking pretty good in Colorado, too.

Insert

Seven Days to Live:
Picking up speed

With host Millibo Art Theatre moving to Ivywild in June, it seems fitting that the theme for this year's Six Women Play Festival should be "Planes, Trains and Automobiles — The Comings and Goings of Life."

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AudioFile:
Ghost B.C. in the machine

"You're confirmed for 11 a.m. Wednesday morning. You will have 15 minutes with a nameless ghoul."

Last week's message from Ghost B.C.'s publicist, while amusing, was also a little worrying.

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From the INDY BLOG

Sequester won't stop the AFA's glass-house project

'Despite a rollback in federal spending that's having an impact on military operations, the Air Force Academy is moving ahead with its new character and leadership building, which someday might rival the Cadet Chapel for icon status at the academy."

Read more at csindy.com.

Digital asset of the week:

Did someone swipe your *InSider* guide to living in the Pikes Peak Region? The digital issue is available online all the time at csindy.com.

Tweet of the week:

Bob
@bobfireman
Follow

Many R noticing the people who ran TOWARDS the blasts 2day. Some wear uniforms like mine. Many don't & didn't have to help. To them: #Kudos

Letters

Editor, 235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903 • e-mail: letters@csindy.com

If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

Chasing the devil

Pam Zubeck continues her excellent reporting on the Waldo Canyon Fire ("Warmed Over," News, April 10) arguably the greatest disaster to strike this city ever. Other reporters in this area have been satisfied to take the canned answers of officialdom at face value and repeat the stock phrase that "we made some mistakes but we'll do better next time." Not so fast. The devil is in the details and we have to find them out and expose them so we can do better next time.

— Bill Sulzman
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Lumpy was the ultimate bully, but Frank was a very, very kind and gentle person and a very good actor to play it so well.'

— Jerry Mathers, commenting in the Los Angeles Times *on the Saturday death of his* Leave It to Beaver *co-star Frank Bank.*

Firing back

Linda Dyer's letter to the editor ("No better cause?" April 10) does not tell the whole story.

First of all, she says that "often a child picks up a gun left nearby" and someone is killed. According to the National Safety Council, about 1 percent of accidental deaths of children are from firearms. Most of the deaths are from drowning, poisoning and other causes.

She is also appalled by the amount of gun deaths in the U.S., but in Mexico where guns are all but banned for the public to own, their firearm homicide rate is 10 per 100,000 people. Yet in the U.S. where guns are not very restricted, the homicide rate is 3.2 per 100,000.

She states that gun makers benefit the most from the NRA. That would be like saying abortion clinics benefit the most from the pro-choice lobby.

So whether you approve of these rights or not, without a way to exercise them you have no right! As to why our county commissioners would want to be "Friends of the NRA," it is because that money goes to train kids in gun safety, something that Linda Dyer claims she is for!

— Jill Coleman
Colorado Springs

Distracted by gun love

An open letter to County Commissioner Amy Lathen:

Guns, guns and more guns are *not* the solutions to our nation's gun-violence situations.

I know how much you and Sheriff Terry Maketa love guns, and guns rule your governing of this county. You love the NRA and anything remotely favorable to, for, toward, and involving guns.

But, you do not represent every person's views.

There are many (myself included) who are sick and tired of the bully tactics that Maketa and others like you try to espouse and push your gun-loving, "more guns, more glory" views on your constituents.

We have real problems in El Paso County. I drive over 20 miles, one way, weekdays from one end of it to another, and have since September. Despite the passing of the new taxes in November to ensure more patrolling by the sheriff's office, I have *yet* to see an increase in county patrols.

The sheriff has been busy being a highly/very public figure for his pro-gun stance — at the cost of doing his job, which is to serve, protect, enforce laws, and provide a sense of security for all citizens.

I am a highly intelligent person and I understand and know many of the problems that face the citizens here. We have a huge problem with substance abuse, and our area's suicide rate (with both younger and older citizens) is an absolute crime — because you, and our other area "leaders" continue to put your heads in the sand about these issues and get some quick publicity — locally, regionally, and even nationally for issues that matter to only you (and Maketa).

Deal with the real, hard-core issues/matters/problems that this area faces, and get your face out of the press.

— Addy M. Hansen
Colorado Springs

Punishing James Holmes

After snuffing out 12 innocent lives and injuring 60 others, James Holmes is trying to negotiate a life sentence of medical care, food, shelter, heat, TV, gym and library for pleading guilty. Sounds like a career move! I might give him life in solitary confinement.

What bargaining power does he have? If he's able to determine what is best for him in this instance, then he is mentally competent to face a court setting. And hopefully the jury will see that this animal deserves no mercy and no consideration.

James Holmes deserves to be executed like Timothy James McVeigh was. And if there is a God, may he subject Mr. Holmes to the sum total of all the pain and trauma which Holmes subjected all of his victims to.

— Joseph Dupont
Towanda, Pa.

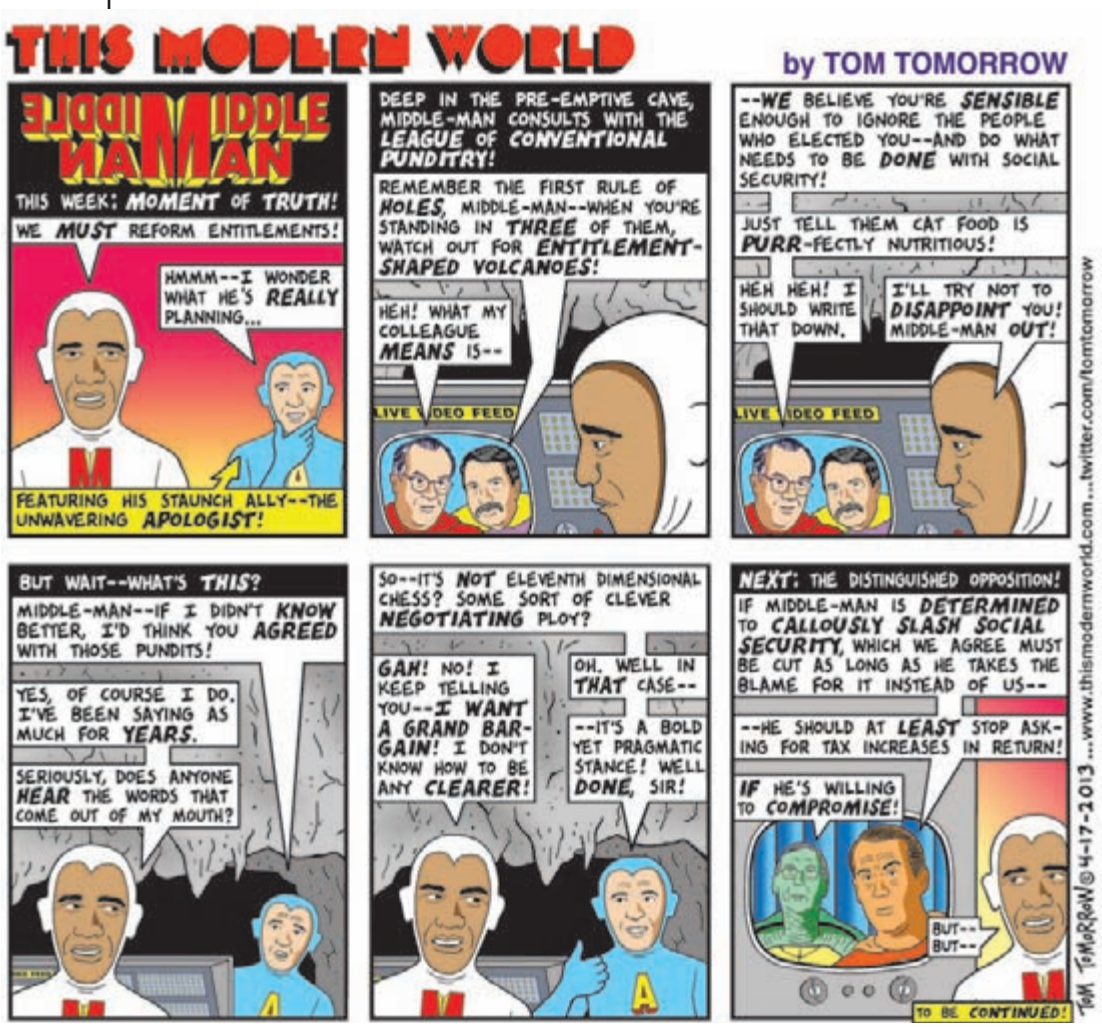
Bullet buy

Shazam! So Jim Hightower is just now finding out a department of the federal government is buying 1.6 billion bullets and it's not the Department of Defense ("DHS is bullish on bullets," LowDown, March 27)? He actually uncovered the Department of Homeland Security in this little procurement? Who knew?

Well, if he had been paying attention, this little bullet-buying extravaganza has been going on for some time now. Couple this unusually high demand with the president's newfound voice on controlling guns and ammo, and we the people have been waiting in long lines since Newtown to get, if we're lucky, a box of bullets anywhere, anyplace.

The recently awakened Hightower might also have considered why DHS needs all these rounds, especially considering that many of their employees, all those airport security agents, are unarmed. If they happen to catch you lugging your Desert Eagle through one of those checkpoints, they have to call in a badged officer with jurisdiction in the airport.

And digging further, Mr. Hightower could have found coupled to the big bullet buy a DHS request for a quote for 7,000 5.56x45mm North Atlantic Treaty Organization personal defense weapons. (This is solicitation HSCEMS-12-R-00011, entered June 7, 2012.) These PDWs look suspiciously like your garden-variety AR-15 rifle, always called by Dianne Feinstein


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
MIDDLE MAN
THIS WEEK: MOMENT OF TRUTH!
WE MUST REFORM ENTITLEMENTS!
HMMM--I WONDER WHAT HE'S REALLY PLANNING...
FEATURING HIS STAUNCH ALLY--THE UNWAVERING APOLOGIST!
DEEP IN THE PRE-EMPTIVE CAVE, MIDDLE-MAN CONSULTS WITH THE LEAGUE OF CONVENTIONAL PUNDITRY!
REMEMBER THE FIRST RULE OF HOLES, MIDDLE-MAN--WHEN YOU'RE STANDING IN THREE OF THEM, WATCH OUT FOR ENTITLEMENT-SHAPED VOLCANOES!
HEH! WHAT MY COLLEAGUE MEANS IS--
LIVE VIDEO FEED
--WE BELIEVE YOU'RE SENSIBLE ENOUGH TO IGNORE THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED YOU--AND DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY!
JUST TELL THEM CAT FOOD IS PURR-FECTLY NUTRITIOUS!
HEH HEH! I SHOULD WRITE THAT DOWN.
I'LL TRY NOT TO DISAPPOINT YOU! MIDDLE-MAN OUT!
LIVE VIDEO FEED
BUT WAIT--WHAT'S THIS?
MIDDLE-MAN--IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK YOU AGREED WITH THOSE PUNDITS!
YES, OF COURSE I DO. I'VE BEEN SAYING AS MUCH FOR YEARS.
SERIOUSLY, DOES ANYONE HEAR THE WORDS THAT COME OUT OF MY MOUTH?
SO--IT'S NOT ELEVENTH DIMENSIONAL CHESS? SOME SORT OF CLEVER NEGOTIATING PLOY?
GAH! NO! I KEEP TELLING YOU--I WANT A GRAND BARGAIN! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE ANY CLEARER!
OH. WELL IN THAT CASE--
--IT'S A BOLD YET PRAGMATIC STANCE! WELL DONE, SIR!
NEXT: THE DISTINGUISHED OPPOSITION!
IF MIDDLE-MAN IS DETERMINED TO CALLOUSLY SLASH SOCIAL SECURITY, WHICH WE AGREE MUST BE CUT AS LONG AS HE TAKES THE BLAME FOR IT INSTEAD OF US--
--HE SHOULD AT LEAST STOP ASKING FOR TAX INCREASES IN RETURN!
IF HE'S WILLING TO COMPROMISE!
BUT-- BUT--
TO BE CONTINUED!
TOM TOMORROW ©4-17-2013 ...www.thismodernworld.com ...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

GetInvolved

All in

Come to this recycling extravaganza with ReStore, Discover Goodwill, Western Scrap and the county's Environmental Services accepting clothing, household items and building materials; paint and medicines for safe disposal; appliances, batteries and more. Some minor fees will apply.

Honeywell Earth Day Recycling Event
Friday, April 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Honeywell Technology, 1110 Bayfield Drive
Contact: 637-6700

Scrub a dub

Help beautify North Cheyenne Cañon at this celebration with kids activities and a provided lunch to follow. Kids 12 to 14 must be accompanied by an adult, and teens 15 to 17 need a written release. Sign up by April 18.

North Cheyenne Cañon Clean-Up & Earth Day Celebration
Saturday, April 20, 8:30 a.m. to noon
Starsmore Discovery Center, 2120 S. Cheyenne Cañon Road
Contact: 385-6086, cheyennecanon.org

Going once ...

Attend a screening of this 2012 documentary that follows a man who tried to disrupt an oil and gas lease auction in Utah as a bidder, and effectively delayed the drilling, but is now serving time in federal prison.

***Bidder 70* Earth Day screening**
Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., free
Contact: 576-5565, tinyurl.com/co7wj3e

For more civic and volunteer opportunities, see Listings on p. 39.

and perhaps Mr. Hightower, an assault weapon.

DHS further notes in their RFQ that the rifle is to be fully automatic, 20- and 30-round magazines are required, and that this personal protection weapon is "suitable for personal defense use in close quarters and/or when maximum concealment is required."

Well Mr. Hightower, welcome to the Save the Second Amendment party. The next thing we'll hear is you shilling for the latest conspiracy theory with Glenn Beck.

— Joseph C. Hunter
Colorado Springs

A pro-Earth sickness?

Regarding the letter from Lorena Townsend to the *Independent* ("Peggy, please," Letters, April 3), I was able to make a diagnosis that she is suffering from Acute Environmental Whackoitis (AEW). The disease was first diagnosed by Rush Limbaugh in the early 1990s.

The first case of AEW was found in Dr. James Hansen, a government scientist at NASA. The first symptoms were reported when Dr. Hansen testified in 1988 in the U.S. Senate that at a minimum, the USA had very little time to do something about global warming; otherwise, we were all doomed. Gore has gone on to make millions by spreading inconvenient half-truths.

From that humble beginning, the disease has spread like wildfire across college campuses, particularly among ecology majors who graduate by the thousands without any jobs to go to — unless you work for the EPA or a Private Environmental Whacko (PEW) organization. Lawsuits filed by PEWs are costing American consumers millions and delaying important projects like Keystone Pipeline that could create good-paying jobs.

Thanks to people like Ms. Townsend, many good-paying jobs in Colorado will be delayed. History shows that, after being used for over 30 years, fracking is perfectly safe technology, and AEW is destroying job and energy sources.

— Sam Taylor
Colorado Springs

Masters of jazz

Thanks for your lists of places to go and things to do in the Pikes Peak region (InSider insert, April 3). Your coverage of the music scene left out one of the best, but least known, of all.

I'm talking about the Colorado Springs Contemporary Jazz Big Band performance every Wednesday evening at the Thirsty Parrot (corner of Tejon Street and Colorado Avenue). It runs from 6 to 8 p.m. and features some of the best musicians in the country, a few of whom come from as far away as Greeley and Pueblo. And it's free!

— Jack Frost
Colorado Springs

Tax happy

Tax preparation is really simple. You just select your filing status and exemptions, then enter your wages and 18 other possible sources of reportable income, 14 possible adjustments to your income, and don't forget the 47 strange questions on Schedule C if you have any sort of business, the 22 strange questions on Schedule D if you've invested, and the 43 strange questions on Schedule E if you have something or other else going, because these will change what you owe, especially if you attach other forms which explain those forms; then check the tax tables to see what you owe minus about 20 possible tax credits, minus any or all of seven or so different kinds of tax payments or credits, then compare that to what has been withheld. Don't worry. Be happy.

— Jim Inman
Colorado Springs

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Colorado Second Lady Dr. Claire Oberon Garcia
State Senator Jessie Ulibarri
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FromtheGM

By Carrie Simison-Bitz

Voices carry ... into the *Indy*

Why do you pick up the *Independent*?

We've been asking hundreds of people this question, one-on-one, in groups and via social media. What we've heard from subsets of our readership — 142,000 in print, another 100,000 via the web — is that you rely on the *Indy* for the most in-depth local news, the coolest to-dos in the local arts and entertainment scene, and our community-building initiatives.

But one recurring comment we've heard is that you want our "Views" section to represent a broader swath of the community. With that in mind, we're adding a couple of much-needed new voices to our mix. Beginning next week, a pair of opinionated and talented women will regularly rotate their work through the pages of this newspaper.

Kirsten Akens, our associate editor, is a Colorado College grad who spent years in the nonprofit sector before settling in the journalism world 6½ years ago. For much of her time at the *Indy*, she has toiled mostly behind the scenes, helping make our reporters' work sing and working closely with our interns. You will enjoy the insights on our community from this woman, who has little fear of trying new things. (See: running, obstacle-adventure racing, fencing, yogi training, professional wrestling ...) Married and a mother to two felines and an adorable Boston terrier, Kirsten's lived in Colorado Springs her entire adult life and enjoys frequenting local restaurants, seeking the best in vegetarian fare.

We're adding a couple of much-needed new voices to our mix.

Laura Austin Eurich, senior instructor and director of undergraduate studies in the Communications Department at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, has been a resident since moving here from New York in 1980. Eurich's "Austin's City Limits" column formerly appeared in the *Gazette* and, back in the 1990s, the *Indy*. Mom to two teenage girls, George the wonder pup and a tortoiseshell cat, Eurich enjoys hiking, doing yoga, sampling beer and visiting great dive bars, and is excited for this gig because "the *Indy* has the right spirit. I love the *Indy* and I love newspapers."

Besides expanding our "Views" section to include these two experienced journalists, you'll notice a few other changes. First, executive editor Ralph Routon (who spends his days at the *Colorado Springs Business Journal*) will cut back to just one *Indy* column a week. You'll generally find it up front as "Between the Lines," but don't count out a sports column on particularly interesting local items of note when they come up.

Next, check out our updated table of contents, which is now easier to navigate because we've added subheads so you'll know — at a glance — where one section ends and the next begins. On that contents page, you'll also find highlights of our digital features: Read our blog on csindy.com, visit us on Twitter or Facebook, read us through our flippable online digital edition or iPad app, or check out m.csindy.com on your smartphone. We'll point you to the must-sees ... then hope you'll explore more on your own.

And finally, "Slice of Life" is back on p. 3 along with "Long Story Short," which gives you the back story on something (usually the main feature) in each week's paper.

Another *Indy* offering to check out is our recently expanded "Garden of the Goods" marketplace, offering thousands of dollars in savings on local food, salon treatments, fitness classes, recreation options and more. We bring you unique stuff to do, see and buy for a *steal*.

And because we're adding even more awesome stuff every week, I invite you to check it out with the special discount code you'll find in the ad on p. 40. Garden of the Goods gift certificates already get you 50 percent or more off treats ranging from dental services to sandwiches, but that code will give you extra reason to check them out today! Watch the *Indy*, our e-newsletters and csindy.com for ways to sign up to get the discounts delivered directly to your inbox.

Every week we work hard to publish the best damn paper in the Pikes Peak region, bursting with the most important news, arts, entertainment and events. We value your input! Send us a letter, add a comment online, and if you know of — or possess — a local voice that should be considered for print, shoot me an e-mail.

— carrie@csindy.com

A Different Kind of Dentist

Top 5 Reasons Why People Dislike Dentists!!

The Downtown Dentist

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#4 The Lectures!

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-Dr. Julia Rohleder, DMD

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Green, as in money

With the pie shrinking and the number of pie-eaters growing, we're headed for some showdowns between environmental advocates and champions of unregulated free-market prosperity.

John Bauer of ***Woodland Park*** works for ***Hewlett-Packard***

Does environmental news get too much or too little coverage? Too little, at least in the mass media.

What's our biggest local problem, environmentally? The power plants are all coal-powered. That has advantages and disadvantages, but we have resources like wind that should be used more.

How about nationally? Nuclear power. I'd like to see it used more, but the big, inescapable problem is what to do with nuclear waste. Until we solve that, we shouldn't increase its usage.

Where have you seen environmental progress in recent years? Things have come up in the solar power industry and in micro power generation to help homeowners offset their power bills.

Justin Anderson of the ***Old North End*** is a ***musician***

Do environmental stories get too much or too little media coverage? Probably not enough. Maybe people don't care enough.

What's the biggest environmental problem we face? Global warming, carbon emissions.

Where, environmentally, have you seen progress recently? President Obama has at least taken some baby steps toward environmental responsibility. There's more popular awareness of environmental problems.

How generally hopeful are you about the future of the environment? I'm hopeful in a vague way, but that may be nothing more than cock-eyed optimism.

Name a personal environmental dilemma. I'm a classic American contributing to over-consumption. I use products I probably shouldn't. I drive a car too much.

Stephanie Smedley of ***downtown*** is a ***stay-at-home mom***

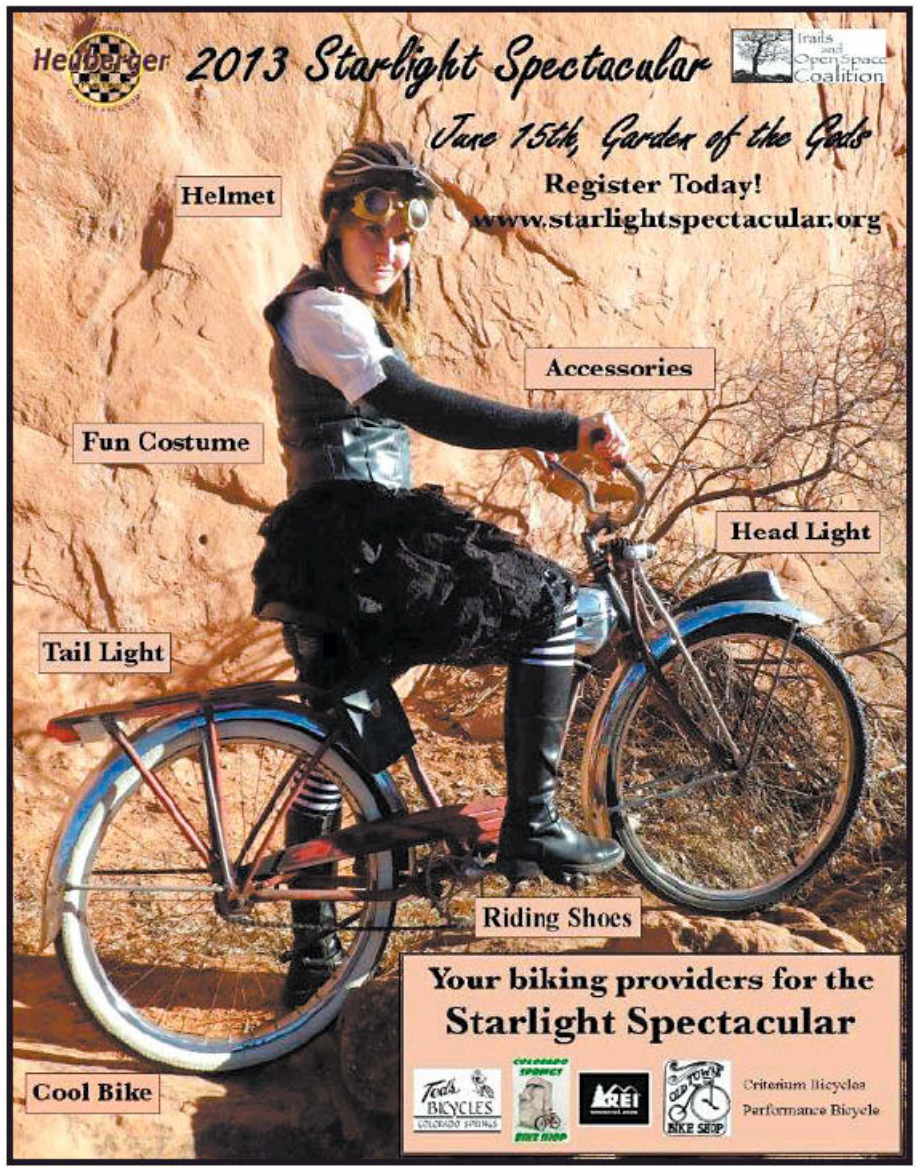
Rate the media's coverage of environmental stories. Grossly inadequate. There's tons of coverage of frivolous things, though.

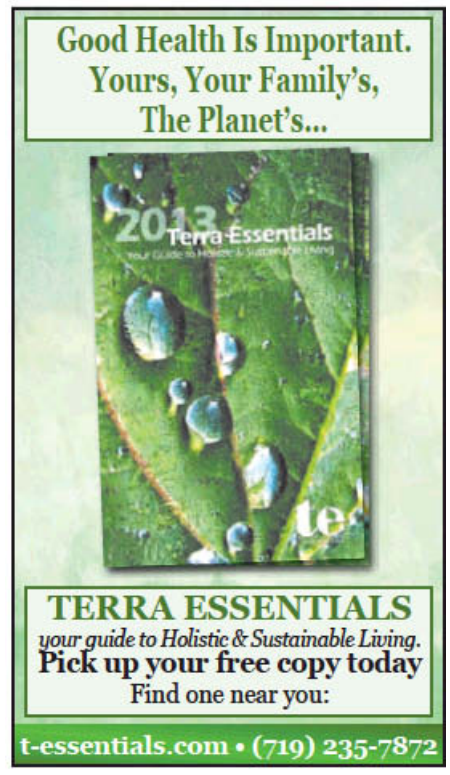
What accounts for that? Americans are complacent. As long as they have their two-car garages and big-screen TVs, everything's fine. My husband and I lived in Germany for six years. Everyone recycles there; people don't litter.

Identify our biggest environmental problem. Businesses and corporations need to be held more accountable for CO2 emissions. Some people still think that global warming is a myth. Lobbyists have way too much power.

Where have you seen environmental progress in recent years? People starting to think in terms of sustainability. They're driving more fuel-efficient and hybrid vehicles.

*— **Bob Campbell***





LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Save the Earth (and us, too)

Earth Day cometh — the 43rd year of this national focus on our globe. Should we weep — or cheer? Both.

The first step toward any recovery is admitting that we have a problem. In fact, beaucoup of them.

For example, despite the squawking of profiteering polluters and professional deniers, our very atmosphere — without which everyone and everything is dead — is rapidly being degraded by our addiction to fossil fuels, literally altering Earth's climate in disastrous ways. Yet, as we burn, our policymakers fiddle.

Let us fiddle with the tar sands in Alberta, Canada, they demand, uncaring about the vast amounts of ozone-destroying carbon that will be released by ripping open the boreal forest to get at the junk oil, or about the extra carbon-dioxide contamination that will come from processing this especially toxic sludge.

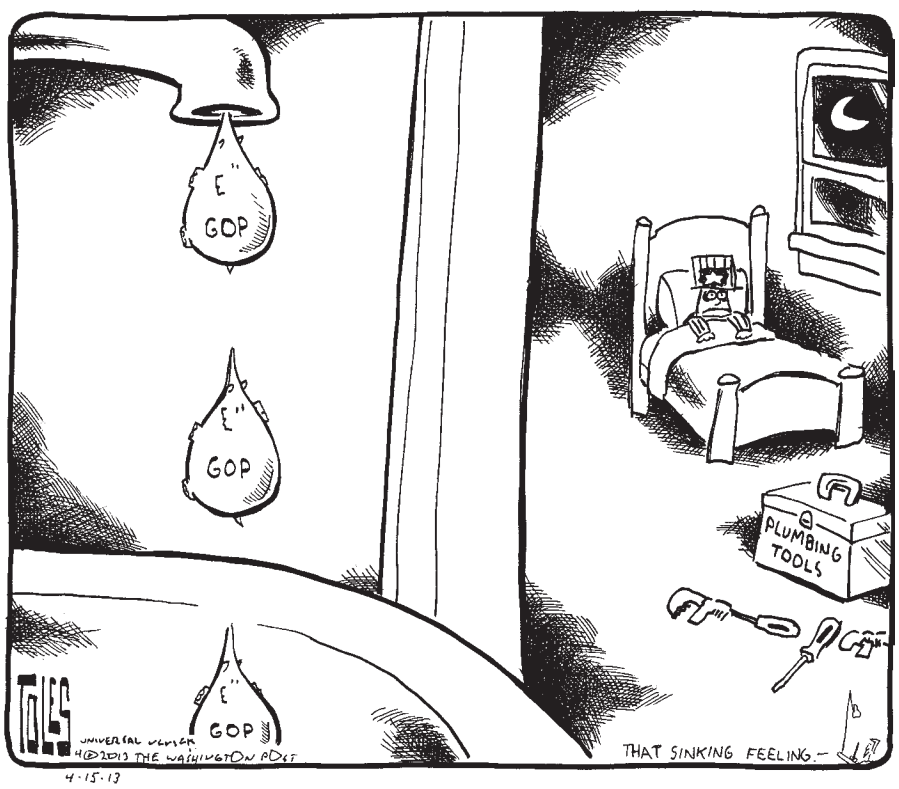
There are plenty of horrors to make you weep.

Also, let us fiddle with the Earth itself by fracking deep underground shale to bring gas, oil — and ozone-depleting methane — to the surface. Oh, and let us keep fiddling with the priceless ecology of America's ancient Appalachian Mountains by exploding off the mountaintops, merely to make it cheaper for Big Coal to extract more ozone-killing ore.

There are plenty of horrors to make you weep on this Earth Day. But tears don't bring change. That comes only from the determined effort of ordinary grassroots people to organize, strategize and mobilize. The good news for our Earth and our own existence is that such people are on the move in every part of America. They're confronting the greedheads and boneheads, creating effective energy alternatives, forging fresh and sensible policies, lifting heads out of the sand — and producing the change we must have.

That's what Earth Day is about. Don't weep — cheer the progress we've made, and join the movement for more.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of **Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow***, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.*



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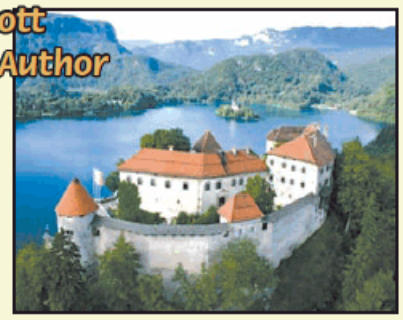

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CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

The golden age of guns

Newspaper editors used to have unwritten "foreign disaster" rules. Knowing that horrific events overseas didn't much interest their readers, they designed their coverage accordingly. A rule of thumb might have been that foreign disasters involving fewer than 50 fatalities didn't get any ink, unless Americans were among the casualties. And if local residents were involved, bingo!

In the United States, guns kill about 80 people a day, while approximately the same number perish in automobile accidents. Cars and guns kill one or two people at a time in frequent, randomly distributed incidents. Ordinary disasters, all of them, often seen as neither particularly noteworthy nor newsworthy.

But horrific massacres are different, spurring calls for serious regulatory reform.

In the 1950s and early '60s, five or six passenger airliners crashed in the United States every year, with grisly and well-publicized results. So dangerous was airline travel perceived to be that aircraft manufacturers, airline companies and government regulators worked together for decades to improve safety. Their task was made easier by public opinion.

Planes weren't love objects like cars or guns, with enthusiast groups wanting more danger, not less. Few wanted to fly in fast but crash-prone planes, like the ill-fated de Havilland Comet. Planes didn't have to look cool — they just had to be safe and functional.

We've traded dysfunctional beauty for safety before.

Today, flying a domestic airliner is safer than any other form of transportation. There were no crashes in 2011 or 2012. The last fatal crash in Colorado occurred on March 3, 1991, when United Airlines Flight 585 crashed near Widefield, killing all 25 passengers and crew.

Annual traffic fatalities reached 54,000 in 1979, but have declined steadily and are projected to dip below 30,000 in the next few years. Experts attribute the drop to safer cars, safer roads, less drunk driving, and more restrictions on young drivers.

Consider the most desirable cars of the '50s, '60s and '70s. They were fast, seductively beautiful and dangerous to drivers, passengers, other vehicles and anyone who happened to get in the way. They handled badly in most conditions, were often grossly overpowered, prone to roll over, and not loaded down with sissy equipment like seat belts, airbags and rollbars. In a collision, you'd sail through the windshield or the engine would end up on your lap — either way, you were a statistic.

But they were *sooo* beautiful! Imagine yourself in a 1958 Chevy Impala convertible, top down on a summer day. That's life as it should be ... unlike our miserable daily commutes in one of today's safe and dreary sedans. That's why a '58 Impala convertible costs $300,000 today, or 150 times as much as it cost new. Love knows no boundaries.

High gas prices, foreign competition, a long recession and government regulations doomed the fleet-footed behemoths of mid-century America. We traded dysfunctional beauty for safety and reliability, and likely saved hundreds of thousands of Americans from untimely deaths.

Now we're in the golden age of firearms. Modern sporting rifles, most based on the Vietnam-era M-16, are the stuff of dreams: light, accurate, reliable, perfectly balanced, and loaded with testosterone. Guys buy them for the same reason guys bought L-88 Corvettes, GT-500 Mustangs, or Plymouth Superbirds — they're dangerous, beautiful and cool as shit.

And gun fatalities remain stuck at around 30,000 annually.

The NRA? It's the lineal descendant of the NHRA, the National Hot Rod Association. The organization ought to abandon its specious Second Amendment shtick and rename itself the North American Man-Gun Love Association. Most of us can't afford a '58 Impala, but we can buy a Bushmaster — an artifact to treasure and love, a bargain-priced substitute for a vintage Corvette.

Banning such assault weapons is tough politically, but if the feds can gradually force manufacturers to make them heavier, less accurate, prone to misfire, and butt-ugly as well, firearm sales will plummet. The golden age will come to halt, owners will hoard and protect their orphaned treasures, and potential mass killers will have to make do with less-capable weapons.

Here's a first step: Require that all assault weapons be chartreuse or pink, and that they be named after really bad cars: the Citation, the Pacer, the Vega and, worst of all, the Yugo! So not cool ...

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

Morning in El Paso County

After two years of GOP infighting and electoral losses, the new leadership talks shop

By Chet Hardin

"We're trying to have most of our oars in the water, rowing in the same direction," says Jeff Hays, chairman of the El Paso County Republican Party. "And that's always a challenge when you have a big organization of very opinionated, excited, enthusiastic people."

Chet Hardin

Meet El Paso County GOP's new coaching staff: Mary Bradfield, Jeff Hays, Sandra Bankes and Jon Frazier.

Indeed, that's a challenge the local party hasn't met lately.

The tenure of the party's previous chair, Eli Bremer, which began in February 2011 and lasted for a single two-year term, was marred by in-party squabbles and dissension. While much of it might have been dismissed as stemming from personal conflict between Bremer and the party's then-secretary, Sarah Arnold (née Anderson), it clearly illustrated a general frustration felt by conservative "liberty" activists.

Across the country, the narrative was playing out: Grassroots Republicans saw themselves as being held at an arm's length by the party's "establishment," even as the GOP drifted further and further from its platform. The activists pushed, and, Hays says, "the party system got perturbed, and it pushed back. And you saw that at every level."

Good-naturedly, he turns back to the local dynamic: "What would you expect out of a county that's got 180,000 Republicans? We're not going to be unified, but we need to collaborate, we need to share ideas respectfully. That's the tone we want to create."

Mending bridges locally, he says, will be a big part of his job. And it seems that this is what the county's most active party members want. In February, the Central Committee, made up of hundreds of Republican voters, elected Hays over the former vice-chairman, David Williams, who had his own public battles with Bremer.

"Our philosophy is going to be to engage people as much as possible, in order to listen," Hays says. "It's our job to be trustworthy, and take a few punches every now and then."

Comeback kid

Of course, the main responsibility for Hays and the party is to win elections. And last year, area Republicans had a rough time with that, too, losing races in the only two House districts where Democrats even have a shot at winning.

In District 17, which covers the southeastern part of the city, the GOP failed to protect incumbent Mark Barker from a 16-point loss to Democrat Tony Exum Sr.

In District 18, which covers central and western parts of Colorado Springs, as well as Manitou Springs, the GOP poured its support behind newcomer Jennifer George in the hopes of ousting Rep. Pete Lee, but got defeated 53 percent to 41 percent.

Hays worked on George's campaign.

"Pete Lee," he says, "had a lot of support, both state and national levels. There was a lot of money dumped into that district, and I think that the Democrats did a great job of targeting it, and understanding it, and working hard in the interim — probably better than we did."

According to Cherish Schaffer, who has recently replaced Bill Roy as the party's executive director, the GOP was fighting against top-down messaging in a nasty presidential election year.

"We've let ourselves be branded as people who only care about ourselves," she says. "But that's not what we are about. ... We need to explain what we are about and what our values are." The Republican Party, she says, must re-brand itself as a party that wants to institute economic policies that will assist all people, economically and socially.

In HD 17, failing to connect with unaffiliated voters played a significant role in their loss. Jon Frazier, the party's new part-time headquarter general manager, notes that the GOP "went too late with the voter registration effort."

The unaffiliated voter is a complex beast, Hays explains, "a real mosaic of issues and concerns," with changing opinions and responses to issues. The party, he adds, needs to remain agile in appealing to them.

"You have to work hard to be dynamic in your understanding of the voters, because the issues change as well," he says. "And our candidates who are running in those districts need to understand them as well. You can't just be single-message people."

Looking ahead

Along with Hays, Mary Bradfield, a longtime Republican volunteer, was recently elected secretary and Sandra Bankes won the vice-chair seat.

First up for the new leadership, as well as for part-time staffers Frazier and Schaffer, will be an annual fundraising event. Typically, the first event of the year, the Lincoln Day Dinner, is held close to the 16th president's birthday; with February long gone, this leadership's looking at a June event.

This will be the first real opportunity for the party to show its mettle, and to confirm what Hays says will be the role and function of the party under his leadership. It will not be a debating club, he says, or a think-tank.

"It's incumbent upon us to have a vision that resonates with enough people," he says, "that they're willing give their time, talents and treasure to the Republican Party. ... We owe it to the people of Colorado, we owe it to the rest of the Republican Party, we owe it to our nation to be a vivid example of excellence, not of dissension."

Schaffer agrees.

"If we get the vote out, we can change the vote in Colorado," she says. "Our state can switch elections now. We are important."

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News

Keep the change

West-side campaign discourages giving

By J. Adrian Stanley

On the west side, people have long known that it's unwise to feed bears — they come back to rummage through your trash and scare your neighbors. Now, local groups and governments are tweaking the message a bit: *Don't give to panhandlers.*

Don't Give Money to Panhandlers
Giving me $$ for drugs and booze isn't working!
WANT TO REALLY HELP ME?
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Give a hand-up, Not a handout!
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Your hand-outs usually go to Alcohol and Drugs
For more information visit:
www.westsideneighbors.org (See Panhandling)

Courtesy Avenue Task Force

The new campaign poster.

Seem harsh?

Those organizing the campaign say it's not meant to be. They hope to encourage people to give to charitable organizations instead — a shift they say will better serve the poor, and force those with debilitating addictions to seek help.

"We want to maximize the donations that people give out to do the most good," says Organization of Westside Neighbors President Welling Clark.

OWN has joined with the Avenue Merchants Association, the city of Colorado Springs, the city of Manitou Springs, El Paso County and other organizations to promote the issue as the Avenue Task Force. All three government partners have property in the neglected area known as No Man's Land, west of 31st Street along Colorado Avenue.

'The ones that are homeless are not using it to get out of homelessness.'

Panhandling, and particularly very aggressive panhandling, has been a problem there for years. Though many sympathize with the beggars' plight, HOT Team Officer Brett Iverson has said in public meetings that most panhandlers in the area are not homeless. Some beg instead of seeking a job; others use it to supplement a government check, or to support bad habits.

"The ones that are homeless are not using it to get out of homelessness, they're just using it for drugs and alcohol," says Bob Holmes, executive director of the homeless umbrella agency Homeward Pikes Peak. "... People know that they're going to be able to panhandle and get all the drugs and booze that they want, and get a hot meal in the soup kitchen, and have a warm place to stay if it gets under 30 degrees. There's not a lot of incentive to change their lifestyle."

Longtime homeless advocate Steve Handen has a different view, noting that panhandlers use money for everything from laundry to booze. But, he notes, it's not something the giver can control. "I think in the Christian context, if you give a gift, give a gift," he says.

As for the campaign, he says he's simply glad that it puts "the burden on the rich and not the poor," as opposed to laws that restrict panhandlers.

The campaign is starting out small, with posters inside stores and fliers in grocery bags. The poster notes that $5 given to the guy on the corner could turn into a $2,970 bill for taxpayers — if the panhandler uses the money to get drunk or high, then gets shipped away in an ambulance.

The fliers encourage gifts to charity, and some include a list of relevant organizations. Clark says his hope is that panhandlers will move on and seek help from charities, which might have more cash thanks to the campaign. He emphasizes that the campaign is one leg of a larger plan, which has also included stepped-up law enforcement and outreach.

Other cities, from Anchorage to Atlanta to Denver, have tried similar approaches. Denver's Road Home, a campaign to end homelessness, runs an "education campaign" as part of a comprehensive plan. It's also made huge steps in other areas, including helping pass new laws, adding 2,653 new housing units, and sending outreach workers to comb the streets.

Denver's Road Home contends that the mix of approaches has reduced panhandling on the 16th Street Mall by 92 percent since 2005.

— stanley@csindy.com

News

Feed-good bill

Schools worry about how to fulfill legislative promise

By J. Adrian Stanley

Few bills in the Colorado Legislature these days erase party lines. But House Bill 1006, known as "Breakfast After the Bell" (BAB), is powerfully appealing.

The premise is simple: Schools with lots of poor children must feed all students a free breakfast during regular hours. Serving the meal "after the bell," instead of before the school day begins, has been shown to drastically increase participation, and eating a healthy breakfast helps children focus in the classroom.

Courtesy Colorado Springs School District 11

Breakfast: In D-11 it goes beyond the cafeteria.

"It's for feeding hungry kids that are sitting in class, and not learning because they are hungry," says Rep. Tony Exum, D-Colorado Springs, a co-sponsor.

The timing seems perfect. In Colorado, 22 percent of children now live in food-insecure homes — an 86 percent increase from 2002, according to Hunger Free Colorado, the Centennial nonprofit that provided expert consultation on the bill. With a few exceptions, HB1006 will mandate BAB in schools in which at least 80 percent of kids qualify for free or reduced lunch, starting in the 2014-15 school year. In 2015-16, the program will expand to include all schools at 70 percent and higher.

But despite the feel-good nature of the bill, which has already passed the House and is jogging through the Senate, some school district representatives say they can't afford to stand behind the bill. That's because HB1006 includes no additional funding for schools.

Rick Hughes, director of Food and Nutrition Services in Colorado Springs School District 11, says the Legislature should either amend the bill so it applies to fewer schools, or cough up a few million.

"We want to serve children; we want to serve the hungry," he says. "... but we have to have some way to pay for it."

Lee Wheeler-Berliner, deputy director of Hunger Free Colorado, argues that schools *should* be able to afford the program. Generally, he says, schools are only reimbursed for the few low-income kids that actually eat breakfast at school; BAB dramatically increases participation, and that bumps the federal and state reimbursements. The nonprofit, which also notes that small grants are available, says the extra cash should cover the increased costs.

Hughes, however, argues that's only true in schools with very high percentages of poor children. D-11 has eight schools in which only 70 to 80 percent of kids are on free and reduced lunch. Those schools will get less reimbursement money, but will have the same up-front costs.

Hughes estimates that in 2015-16, he'll spend an extra $230,000 district-wide on Breakfast After the Bell, because schools will need increased transportation, food storage, cooking equipment, food and supplies. The cost every year after that will be about $50,000, plus inflation.

He says other districts are facing similar issues, and adds that he's reached out to the Legislature and to Hunger Free Colorado about the real costs of the program, but has been rebuffed. (Hunger Free Colorado executive director Kathy Underhill says she has considered such comments, but stands by the organization's calculations.)

If the program is approved, D-11 may have to cut other programs, or charge kids who aren't on assistance more for lunch. Hughes, who brought free-range meat and local produce to D-11, says he won't cut the quality of his meals.

"I refuse to take shortcuts and serve highly-processed foods to our kids," he says. "That's just not an option for us, but it will happen in other districts ... I think it's devastating for our state."

— stanley@csindy.com

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News briefs from the Front Range

Boost for bus drivers

In 2009, Colorado Springs city government pulled the plug on a transit contract — and an underfunded pension that went with it — leading to the layoffs of 70 people, including 47 bus drivers, many of whom had served the city for decades.

The move led to multiple lawsuits. But a big one is being settled, with the city announcing last week its plans to fork over $8 million to First Transit.

Both parties declined to comment on the details of the settlement. But former First Transit driver Dan Francis says he's been told that the lion's share of the money will be used to shore up the workers' pension fund, as expected.

That's not the end of the transit headache for the city, which may still face huge consequences for eliminating those jobs, which were protected through the Amalgamated Transit Union. Since transit gets money from the federal government, it must follow the federal government's rules regarding unions. The ATU says the city failed to do that, essentially engaging in union-busting.

Tom Buescher, ATU attorney, says that case is in the pretrial discovery stage, scheduled for trial Sept. 17. If the ATU wins, it could result in another big payout from the city, and possibly some compensation for the canned workers. — ***JAS***

GOP blogger chastised

Michelle Morin might not be the most famous local Republican blogger, but she is no slouch.

As she notes on her website, in 2010 she received the Vern Bickel Grassroots Leadership Award from the Independence Institute, a Libertarian think tank. That same year, she earned *Campaigns & Elections* magazine's "Top 5 Influencer in the state of Colorado."

As the *Indy* first reported last week, Morin linked to an article on Facebook about alleged child-sex abuse committed by a married gay couple, stating, in part, that if society "keeps inching away from the family structure as it was intended ... pretty soon 2 married men raping their own sons WILL be un-sensational ..."

The inference, that pedophilia is a symptom of homosexuality, and one that will be allowed one day by a politically correct society, didn't sit well with a number of conservatives, as reported by coloradopols.com.

Morin had yet to respond as of press time. — ***CH***

Morse has friends, too

While the effort to recall Senate President John Morse might be in full swing ("Ready, aim, recall," News, April 10), so is the effort to support the Colorado Springs Democrat. And on Sunday, supporters gathered at Penrose Library.

"It went really well, we had a great turnout," says Christy Le Lait, campaign director for the anti-recall effort. Le Lait, who is also the executive director of the local Democratic Party, points out that if the recall effort is successful, voters in El Paso County's Senate District 11 will vote this fall whether to recall Morse — at a cost of up to a half-million dollars. And then, the following year, because Morse is term-limited, they'll head back to the polls to vote again.

That said, two Democrats have already signaled their interest in running in 2014 for Morse's Senate seat: former state legislator Michael Merrifield and longtime Democratic activist Mike Maday. — ***CH***

Stormwater move OK'd

The soon-to-be-overhauled City Council approved a resolution to support a regional approach to stormwater management on a 6-2 vote April 9.

In the past, such a move may have been considered little more than ceremonial. But Mayor Steve Bach has made it a political issue, by advocating that the city deal with its stormwater issues on its own.

Despite the mayor's objections, a Regional Stormwater Steering Committee of dozens of citizen volunteers (with assistance from El Paso County) is studying how best to approach the problem. Regionally, the price tag for needed stormwater capital projects is thought to exceed $900 million.

Once they make a recommendation, county commissioners may refer the issue — which would likely recommend a governance structure for stormwater management and a funding mechanism or tax — to the ballot. The support of City Council should help the cause, though it remains to be seen whether the new Council will be as keen on working regionally as the current one. — ***JAS***

Compiled by Chet Hardin and J. Adrian Stanley.

Melcher, Neumann get bonuses

File photo

Mayor Steve Bach has given two of his direct reports $25,000 bonuses.

City Attorney Chris Melcher, who's paid $187,529 a year, was rewarded for his "instrumental leadership" in leasing Memorial Health System to University of Colorado Health.

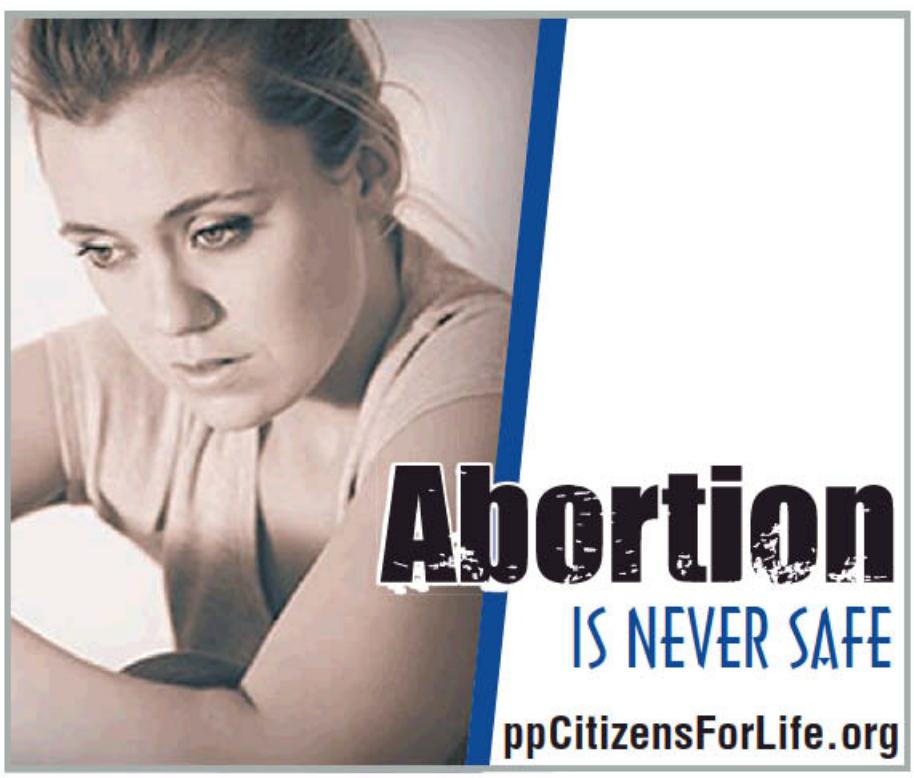
The deal indeed earned wide support from voters, who approved it 83 percent to 17 percent. However, to get it done the city paid an outside law firm, Fulbright and Jaworski, $1.55 million. In addition, the lease has given rise to two lawsuits: one from the Public Employees' Retirement Association, which seeks roughly $240 million to cover Memorial employees' retirements after they become employees of UCH, and the other from investors suing the city for Melcher's early defeasance of Memorial bonds.

The investor group, which alleged it was cheated out of $18.6 million in unpaid interest, recently agreed to settle the case for $995,000.

Chief of Staff Laura Neumann's bonus was tied to her "hiring and managing outstanding senior staff," such as in the city clerk's office, human resources, finance, information technology, planning and parks; for generating "breakthrough strategies" in the city's Strategic Plan; and for "providing WCF [Waldo Canyon Fire] general staff support." Her $25,000 supplements a current base salary of $165,000.

The bonuses, paid in 2012, come on the heels of Bach paying more than $1 million in severance pay, health benefits and sick time to get rid of 23 employees ("Take the money and run," April 3), many of them top managers. That figure doesn't include the city's recent $250,000 lawsuit settlement with fired finance director Terri Velasquez.

— Pam Zubeck



A NEW *NORMAL*

A *NEW YORK TIMES* REPORTER SAYS NOT ALL 'DIFFERENT' KIDS NEED A DIAGNOSIS

By Kirsten Akens

One week's gone by since the U.S. Supreme Court heard challenges to both the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8, and John Schwartz is more than willing to get "hyper-technical" discussing what the justices might decide. It's a topic the *New York Times* national correspondent is familiar with, much due to research for his November 2012 release, *Oddly Normal: One Family's Struggle to Help Their Teenage Son Come to Terms With His Sexuality.* And it's a topic likely to come up during his visit to Colorado College on Tuesday, April 23, for a presentation and reading from the book.

That said, Schwartz also admits to being a bit blown away by everything that's happened legally in regard to LGBTQ rights just since the memoir was published.

"Remember," he says, "1973, the [American Psychiatric Association] stopped calling homosexuality a disease."

The 56-year-old father of three knows, however, there's still much work to be done.

"The acceptance of gay marriage, same-sex marriage, has risen tremendously but it's still, in the overall population, still not overwhelming support, right? It's just markedly higher support among young people, among Democrats. ...

"And so the trend over time is for greater support. It's a time of rapid legal change ... but it does not mean universal acceptance. At all. And I think activists get confused on that score. They see how far they've come and sometimes get a little blinded about the general consensus and how far they've got to go."

Getting schooled

The public school system provides a case in point. Schwartz delves deeply with *Oddly Normal* into the challenges he and his wife Jeanne faced when working with school administrators, teachers and counselors, and their son Joseph, from elementary school to today, as the 17-year-old navigates his junior year in high school.

"I think that schools worry way too much about what other parents are going to say in trying to set policy. This was our problem, when we kept saying, 'You really need a [Gay-Straight Alliance] in your middle school. You just need to help let these kids know they're accepted.' And we always heard, 'Well, you know, the parents. Oh ... the parents.' And they'd trail off and I'd say, 'What about the parents? Have you asked any parents? Or are you just scared of your own shadow?'"

He notes that school employees often don't get training in these areas, and that many are feeling their way through issues as they arise. But just as schools can lead in the fight against bullying, Schwartz says, "they can lead in acceptance. Not tolerance — tolerance is a pretty crappy word — but to embrace the people around us who are different."

Schwartz emphasizes that while his book follows Joseph's coming out and his attempted suicide, it's more broadly about how parents can advocate for their children, especially kids who are different. As he explains in his book, as a young child, Joseph was always a little "squirrely." ("He still is! And I like that about him!" Schwartz exclaims.)

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The Mathis family fights a first-grade battle close to home

Kathryn and Jeremy Mathis have a bit of experience in standing up for their kids. Their oldest daughter, Dakota, 8, has autism. For the first half of her life she was non-verbal, and the Mathises had to decide how to best educate her through the early years. They chose to homeschool.

In 2006, Kathryn gave birth to triplets. One of them, Max, also has autism. Lily, at four months, experienced a viral brain injury and as a result is often sick and cannot moderate her own body temperature. The Mathises picked up the family and moved from their native Texas to Fountain for the milder weather.

The third of their triplets, Coy, is transgender. Biologically a boy, she identifies as a girl — and has, as Kathryn says, since she could express herself verbally. "Why are you calling me a he?" Coy would ask her parents. "I'm a she."

It's this last situation that has put their family in the pages of national media like John Schwartz' *New York Times* during the past couple months — and much like Schwartz's own family, at odds with the public schools.

On Monday, April 15, the Mathises completed the paperwork phase of their recent complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Division against Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8. After a year of Coy's attending Eagleside Elementary as a girl with the school's full support, the district's lawyers called out of the blue in December and told the family that after winter break, the first-grader would need to use the boys' bathroom, a staff bathroom, or the bathroom in the nurse's office.

The Mathises still are confused about the switch.

"There hadn't been any issues," Kathryn says they told her. "... They were more concerned about setting a precedent for future years, where she's in middle school, high school, and, you know, has various body developments as she's going through puberty. ... I think if they had just looked into what most transgender children do, they would be a little bit more educated and know that she likely will not go through male puberty because we'll block those hormones."

'They're teaching that it's OK to bully somebody different.'

Kathryn Mathis

At 6, Coy Mathis knows exactly who she is.

At one point, after Kathryn asked to meet and discuss the situation, the district's lawyers told her no. She says they said, "We're bending over backwards just calling that boy a girl."

A phone call to the district has not been returned.

And so, with support from attorney Michael Silverman and the New York-based Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, they filed a complaint. The couple hoped to resolve the issue through the first step, mediation. When the district refused, they pulled Coy and their other children out of school. Kathryn says they submitted a full statement to the state, the district submitted a response, and after turning in the family's response in reply this week, it's now in the hands of Civil Rights Division investigators.

She says they can either decide immediately or take up to 180 days to investigate more. Once they reach a decision, it goes to mandatory mediation. If the decision is in Coy's favor and the school still won't acquiesce, it goes to the Human Rights Division and the whole process begins again. If that doesn't come to resolution, it heads to the local courts.

Now homeschooling Coy, Dakota, Max and Lily, with 2-year-old Auri toddling about, Kathryn, a 27-year-old photographer, and Jeremy, a 31-year-old former Marine headed for law school in the fall, could probably do without the headache. But that's not how the family operates.

"If we just kind of silently walked away, when we had the chance to talk about it, then it would be setting up a really bad situation for another child," Kathryn says. "Because then they would come in and the school would go, 'Well, we got away with this before, so we're certainly not gonna back down now.'"

Her frustration peaks a bit when she thinks also of what the other kids at Eagleside are learning.

"They're teaching them that it's OK to bully somebody that's different. Instead of teaching them this amazing lesson ... that it's great to be different and accept differences and everybody's special.

"Of course," she adds, "they're also teaching them that you can thumb your nose at the law if you don't like it. And that's a really bad message to teach 600 children."

— Kirsten Akens

Courtesy John Schwartz

John Schwartz and his son traveling together before Joseph came out.

In first grade, Joseph and his teacher were often at odds, and she began to come to John and Jeanne with a "diagnosis-of-the-week." When Joseph bored of her class and disappeared to read a book, she thought it indicated mental detachment. When he would sit too close to the girls and play with their hair, she suggested inappropriate boundaries. When he would rage at her because she wouldn't let him remove his coat and carry it when he was hot, she thought maybe it was attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. And since Joseph wouldn't look her in the eye, perhaps he should be checked for a condition on the autism spectrum.

"Schools, teachers and administrators, they have to deal with hundreds of kids, they're overworked, and simple solutions to their problems would be very welcome," Schwartz says. "And a diagnosis, a label, maybe even a drug, it sounds like a path to a simple solution to many of them. ... And so it's a very natural impulse to take a kid like Joe, who was a mess in elementary school, and to put him in one of those boxes."

New landscape

As Joseph continued through the grades, he succeeded at certain activities, but struggled with others. In fourth grade, the school sent him for a battery of tests, none of which identified any specific diagnosis. There were, however, signs of mental distress, which would lead to Joseph's first Individual Education Plan, a contract between the family and the school.

By then, with an IEP to back them up, Schwartz and his wife were learning to be more confident in speaking out for their son. They were also confident that Joseph was gay, and they wondered how this might be affecting his behavior at school. As Schwartz writes in *Oddly Normal*, "We didn't know whether or not Joseph was mentally ill and gay, or possibly mentally ill in part because he was gay."

As a 13-year-old, Joe ended sixth grade by coming out to his parents, which went well, and at school, which did not. That afternoon Jeanne came home to find Joseph in a daze in the bathroom, surrounded by empty pill containers.

'Tolerance is a pretty crappy word.'

It was a long recovery. But once the family could openly discuss his sexuality, Joseph could begin to flourish. (See "Purple at heart," at right.)

He still is too shy to look most people directly in the eye when he first meets them, Schwartz says, but he's clear that Joe's "odd behaviors lessened tremendously once he was past the strain of being a closeted teenager. You have to see all that to think maybe the attempts at diagnosis, whatever the intention, were more restrictive than helpful."

Schwartz mentions Andrew Solomon's new book, *Far From the Tree*, a 700-page tome that he describes as telling the stories of parents who get a child they do not expect and are suddenly taken to an unfamiliar place. "Deafness. Homosexuality. Physical disability. It's up to them to be parents in a new landscape with a child that's both part of their world and this other world."

"In dealing with this unexpected landscape," Schwartz adds, "it's still just parenting. It's different. It's harder in some ways, but it's still the same job. ... It's not like somebody hands you an instruction manual. It's finding your own way with this stuff."

— kakens@csindy.com

CAPSULE

***Oddly Normal* book discussion and signing with John Schwartz**

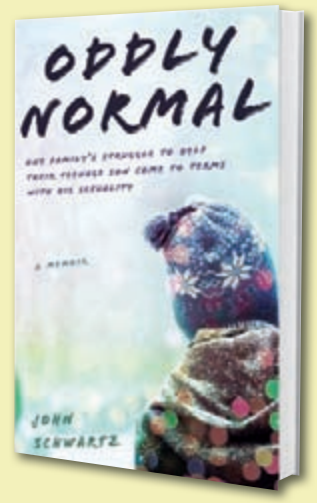
Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion hosted by Inside Out Youth Services and PFLAG of Colorado Springs

CC's Gates Common Room, 1025 N. Cascade Ave.

Free.

PURPLE AT HEART

An excerpt from John Schwartz's memoir



As spring of his freshman year rolled around, Joseph decided to act on something he had been thinking about since he had been to camp with the kids from YES. A counselor whose hair color seemed to change by the week had suggested that Joseph might want to dye his hair. Joseph first mentioned this desire to Jeanne at the end of the summer. Jeanne initially put him off, telling him to ease into the new environment and test the waters first. By the spring, though, Joseph was insistent. He was doing reasonably well in school; teachers had learned to say to their classes, "Okay, let's hear the answer from somebody other than Joseph." This time, Jeanne thought that the request was serious enough that we should discuss it as a family. So, one evening in March, Joseph told me, "I really want to dye my hair purple."

When he was little, Joseph had wanted to paint his room purple. It had always been his favorite color. But on his head? I didn't try to argue him out of it; dye, unlike a tattoo, isn't permanent. But I did want him to consider the possible consequences.

"You know, Joe, there is a pretty significant possibility that you will get pounded at school." He said that he understood but told me he didn't really think that would happen.

I called around to the local hair salons; none of them said they could do a purple dye job. So I decided that on Saturday, we'd head over to Astor Place Hairstylists, the venerable salon in the East Village. They've been cutting, fading, and dyeing since 1947. It's a place that has always been up for anything.

So on a chilly Saturday in March after Joseph finished up at the Gay Center, we walked over to Astor Place. The colorist, however, tried to talk Joseph out of his purple idea. "Purple is for ladies," she said. "It's not a good color for a boy." She recommended blue. Joseph agreed, and she set to work applying the peroxide that would bleach his dark brown hair enough to take the dye.

As his hair was going to yellowish white — and Joseph's scalp was burning from the harsh chemicals — he decided to dig in. He got up and told the colorist, "I really want the purple." She nodded and got out two small jars of dye. After a couple of hours (and about a hundred bucks, with the very nice haircut thrown in), his hair was an eye-popping shade of purple.

We drove back across the Hudson, and Joseph reminded me that he wanted to attend the school dramatic performance that evening. I walked him into the school to buy the ticket and saw the principal from across the entryway. And the principal saw Joseph. His eyes got pretty big. I couldn't read his facial expression, but if I were to guess, it was one of self-pity — as in, "I'm going to be dealing with this on Monday. This kid is going to get picked on, and it's going to end up in my office."

I went home and posted a few pictures to Facebook with the caption, "Joseph Schwartz has decided to see what life is like with purple hair for a while ..."

My brother Bob, who is bald, wrote, "I am jealous."

A friend who is a professor at a top-ranked law school wrote, "Buy black towels and pillowcases. I speak from experience here." I waited nervously for something bad to happen, but disaster never came. Purple hair was Joe's version of Sam's poncho: bright and attention getting, but ultimately part of his school persona.

Still, not all of the attention was friendly. A few days after going purple, Joseph was in the locker room after gym when one of the jocks came up to him and asked, "Why did you dye your hair purple?"

Joseph said, "Because it's awesome."

The other boy didn't accept that answer. "Yeah, but — Why didn't you dye it orange, or something?"

"Because orange would not look good with my coloring," Joseph explained.

The kid became even more insistent and pulled out some of the high-dollar vocabulary words from SAT prep: "But don't you understand — don't you understand — that the color purple has been appropriated by the homosexuals?"

A kid piped up from across the room, "He's really aware of that."

The jock responded, "I was just trying to warn him —"

At that point, another of the jocks came up and slammed Jock #1 into a bank of lockers. "He can dye his hair hot fucking pink if he wants to," the boy shouted. "He can dye it any fucking color he wants!" The two boys walked out of the locker room, arguing with each other about Joe's hair. Joseph turned to the boy he shared a locker with and said, "That was surreal."

Reprinted from* Oddly Normal *by John Schwartz by arrangement with Gotham Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., Copyright © 2012 by John Schwartz.

17 Wednesday

slam

Colorado Springs will soon have a place on the national stage, when its team travels to Boston this August for the National Poetry Slam. But before that, the team needs to be *built*, and that's the point of tonight's **Hear Here Artist Showcase and Final Poetry Slam**, starting at 6:30 at **Stargazers Theatre & Event Center** (10 S. Parkside Drive, stargazerstheatre.com). Eight hopefuls will spit, but only six will get the nod. While you're there, check out visual art by the likes of Dáreece Walker and Anita Kuhn, and live music by the Hopeful Heroines, DJ Mixed Signal and many others. Ten bucks in advance gets you in ($15 at the door), and $15 snags you a table seat, but you need to reserve now at wheretohear@gmail.com. — ***EA***

18 Thursday

stage

Hard as it may be for some of us to believe on this otherwise unremarkable Thursday, tonight hundreds of minds will expand, then shatter into thousands of pieces, near highway exit 135. That's where, within the hulking gray confines of the **World Arena** (3185 Venetucci Blvd., worldarena.com), ***Disney on Ice: Treasure Trove*** will challenge everything that 3- and 4-year-olds thought they knew about this life. Mice gliding on ice, a gaggle of princesses singing, Simba and Pumbaa in the felt ... it's a massive, kaleidoscopic brain scramble that costs as little as $12 per person, at least for this 7 o'clock opening night show. Prices otherwise run from $15 to $55, with shows scheduled through the weekend. — ***KW***

PICKING UP SPEED

Six Women Play Festival at the MAT finds a new gear in its seventh year

With the Millibo Art Theatre moving to Ivywild in June, it seems fitting that its theme for this year's Six Women Play Festival should be "Planes, Trains and Automobiles — The Comings and Goings of Life."

Now in its seventh year, this popular festival has never before featured such a tight focus. While this netted fewer submissions (87 compared to 200-plus in previous years), there's no doubt it made for a stronger show, each play offering a unique spin on the way our vehicles take us to new places — those found on maps and in our minds.

Here's a quick look at each of them, which were strung together, as always, by hosts Jim Jackson and Brazilian firecracker Babette (Birgitta De Pree):

Skywriting: Amy Cuomo's frothy comedy features a self-admitted math geek who learns a lesson in love after hiring a pretty young pilot to scrawl a wedding proposal across the sky. I wasn't sure whether we were supposed to root for these two to get together at the end, but Sean Verdu and Madison Hunziker had some nice chemistry.

The 5564 to Toronto: A deserted bus station sets the stage for this *Twilight Zone*-like comedy by Los Angeles-area playwright Karen Howes. Here an excitable stranger tries to stop a lonely woman from boarding a bus after he finds an ominous note. The dialogue is fresh and funny, and while the story grows increasingly dark, Desiree Myers keeps the play light on its feet with her boundless energy as the ill-fated traveler.

6-Lane: A runaway teenage girl gets some unasked-for advice in this gritty drama set by the side of a busy freeway. Joe Forbeck brings a rough-edged charm to his role as a homeless man with a gift for gab. Brooklyn writer Elena Zucker throws in a gut-wrenching twist, but it was the enigmatic resolution that left me thinking about the play long after the stage went dark.

Carpool Mandala: In this quirky comedy, a narrator presents a trio of carpool-scheduling moms as though they were tribeswomen practicing some ancient ritual. Atlanta playwright Hilary King offers some amusing commentary on modern parenting, but the play takes a wrong turn to a sentimental ending that feels out of place.

Claudie's Brother: Caroline Carr gives the best performance of the night as a poor Southern girl with ADHD who pleads with her brother not to walk out on their family. The understated dialogue and bittersweet, almost haunting mood make it clear why Seattle playwright Barbara Lindsay is a festival favorite. (Her plays also appeared in 2008 and 2012.)

Edge: De Pree took a break from her hosting duties to star in this dark comedy with LeAnne Carrouth. Written by California playwright Emily Brauer Rogers, the play centers on a pair of despondent women who plan a *Thelma and Louise*-like drive off a cliff, only to get stuck just short of the rim. While the final catharsis seems unmotivated, director Joye Cook-Levy nimbly balances the humor of the situation with the very real despair of the characters.

— ***Todd Wallinger***

CAPSULE

Six Women Play Festival

April 18-21 and 25-28, Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.

Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St.

Tickets: $15 Thursdays, $20 Friday-Sunday, for more call 465-6321 or visit themat.org and sixwomenplayfestival.com.

19 Friday
metaphysics

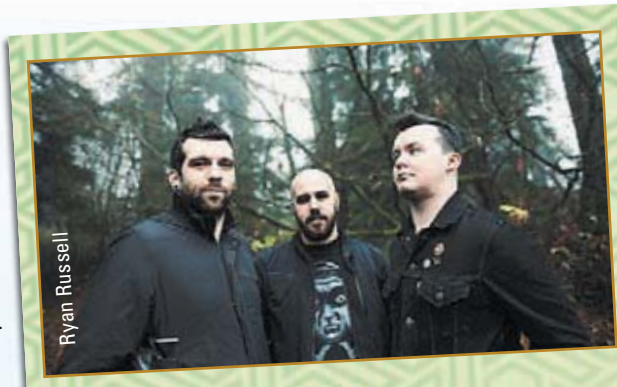
At last fall's **Celebration Fair** I had my Akashic records read. I had no idea what they were going into the session, nor, honestly, do I think I can explain them to you now. But that's sort of how things go at the fair — if you're willing to open your mind to an experience, you can learn all sorts of truths about yourself, whether through Tarot, palmistry, angelic channeling, numerology, handwriting analysis or other holistic endeavors. They all unfold at the **City Auditorium** (221 E. Kiowa St., bmscelebration.com). Daily admission, today through Sunday, is $5, and 20-minute individual readings are $20. **— *KA***

20 Saturday
music

Let me tell you what the Finns like: skiing, Nokia phones and the sauna. (They invented the last two.) But those are sort of givens. Now, what do you know about Finnish *music*? You should know at least one name: Jean Sibelius. As Finland's premiere composer, Sibelius is not only an icon of Suomi, but a member of your basic classical music canon. Learn more at tonight's 8 o'clock ***Beyond the Score*** **performance** from the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. They'll play Sibelius' *Symphony No. 5* — written during World War I, just prior to Finland earning its independence — under the direction of Josep Caballé-Domenech. Tickets start at $23 for this **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., csphilharmonic.org) show. **— *MB***

21 Sunday
outdoors

Because every day *should* be **Earth Day** and all that, you won't be fazed by attending back-to-back eco-action fests. So you spent yesterday between 9 and 3 at **Rock Ledge Ranch** and **Garden of the Gods Park** (1805 N. 30th St., gardenofgods.com), enjoying the multitude of free animal interactions, music and educational exhibits. Today, you're headed to **Aspen Valley Ranch** (1150 S. West Road, Woodland Park, ppcf.org) between 1 and 4 to join the Harvest Center for everything from hiking and greenhouse tours to seed and tree planting and talks on fracking, post-fire forest recovery and cordwood building. **— *MS***



22 Monday
music

If you thought the days of Against Me! and Alkaline Trio were over, then **Broadway Calls** probably seems inexplicably popular. Then again, punk, despite its days-of-yore rap, just refuses to die. Maybe that's because it's always had a sense of humor. Take this recent Facebook comment from fellow pop-punk band the Old Wives to a BC fan: "Tape up your butthole Courtney, cuz they were so good I shit my pants." If that's not an endorsement, I don't know what is. Catch them with Take It to 88 and Sleeping Weather at tonight's 7 o'clock, all-ages show at the **Black Sheep** (2106 E. Platte Ave., blacksheeprocks.com) for $10. **— *EA***

23 Tuesday
museum

The Sisters of Loretto ain't playin'. You've got Sister Mary Ann McGivern, who, according to the *New York Times*, in 1987 stormed the annual meeting of defense contractor Honeywell to accuse the company of "fueling the arms race" in "the hope for profit." Then you've got Sister Jacqueline G. Wexler, who the same newspaper says took on the Vatican, in 1967, to win autonomy from the church for Webster College, a Catholic women's school in Missouri. They're lively ladies, and the **El Pueblo History Museum** (301 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, historycolorado.org) pays tribute to that heritage with the traveling exhibit ***Sisters of Loretto: 200 Years Working for Peace, Acting for Justice***. Adult admission today, or any Tuesday through Saturday until July 27, is $5. **— *BC***

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Miguel Bustamante, Bryce Crawford, Matthew Schniper and Kirk Woundy.

STAGECRAFT INN

The FAC cultivates new plays in Rough Writers, a festival of staged readings

Kelly McAllister has a good feeling about his play-in-progress, *April's Fool*, which is a "metaphysical comedy" with a lot of unrequited love.

"I have a gut feeling it's going to go far," says the Denver playwright, screenwriter and director. "It's going to start here and I don't know where it's going to end."

Another play McAllister wrote, *Burning the Old Man*, wound up being performed in New York, the Czech Republic, Austria and Brazil. But before *April's Fool* crosses any borders, actors will stage a reading of it as part of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theatre Company's Rough Writers: a new play fest.

"Playwrights have increasingly fewer opportunities to be able to hear their plays out loud, which helps them in the development of their work," says FAC theater director Scott RC Levy, who created Rough Writers.

It started last November with a call to playwrights who had to base their play, of any length, on one of three artworks from the FAC's *A Family Affair: Selections from the Progressive Art Collection* exhibit, which is on display until May 19. "[We] weren't necessarily looking for the best scripts," Levy says, "although what was intriguing got to the top of the pile. We were much more interested in presenting scripts that felt like they were worth developing."

Of the nearly 100 received, four full-length plays and six shorts from writers both local and national were selected by a panel of theater professionals for staged readings over four days between April 18 and 21. From here, audiences will offer feedback, and the writers will have a week to make changes before a second reading. Following that, audience members who have seen *all* the plays will choose a winner, whose work will be a part of the FAC's Second Stage 2013-14 season. (Rough Writers caps off its inaugural year.)

This is a first in the company's 25-year history, which, who knows, could make new, original plays de rigueur at the FAC. That's what it's asking of its Rough Writers, after all. As McAllister puts it, "This play was [about] breaking out of more conventional modes of writing for me and going to new places."

— Darcie Mankell

CAPSULE

Rough Writers: a new play fest

April 18-20 and 25-27, 7:30 p.m. April 20-21 and 27-28, 2 p.m.; go online for a detailed schedule

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St.

Tickets: $5 a reading, $15 for a festival pass; for more, call 634-5583 or visit csfineartscenter.org.

4Play
Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Swan Lake, April 19-20 at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center

Before you know it
Bill Cosby, April 26 at the Pikes Peak Center

Potato pick
Dog and Beth: On the Hunt series premiere (in Denver), 6 p.m., Sunday, April 21 on CMT

Have you heard?
Could this clear the oceans of plastic? tinyurl.com/aafeetb

Appetite

Greetings from the top of the world

Carlos' Bistro may be out of reach for many, but exclusivity certainly has its highlights

By Matthew Schniper

CAPSULE

Carlos' Bistro

1025 S. 21st St., 471-2905, carlosbistrocos.com

September through April: Wednesday through Saturday, 5 to 8 p.m.
May through August, daily, 5 to 9 p.m.; early-bird special nightly, 5 to 5:30 p.m.

It's true: Carlos Echeandia really does walk into the parking lot to greet customers at Carlos' Bistro, somehow finding the time between bartending, serving and playing host extraordinaire to mind the front window.

Brienne Boortz

Carlos Echeandia and his wife Marcia handle high-end with graceful aplomb ... for a price.

I'd heard of the gesture, but never actually experienced how special it makes you feel until my first visit to the 8½-year-old, premier fine-dining spot last week. I'd been beyond curious about Carlos', but what held me back is that which has been widely expressed in online forums and by acquaintances elsewhere: The place is damn expensive.

Carlos' prices eclipse those of Walter's, The Famous, PepperTree — all but the Broadmoor's Penrose Room, making it a "special occasion" place for a lot of us.

But there are those in certain ZIP codes for whom the average Carlos' bill is a trifle, and it's clear that this demographic comprises his bread-and-butter. Especially after I overhear a nearby table warmly introducing their server to a visiting family member. (God bless regulars with money.)

So what I went to find out, clear as Cristal, was this: Is Carlos' worth it?

Let's chew on this as I did on my fantastic, 12-ounce, $45 USDA Prime Peruvian Lomo Saltado ribeye.

Prime time

First, I should tell you that a lot of those aforementioned online comments also detail just how damn good the food is. I should also mention the 5-to-5:30-p.m. early bird deal that knocks half off smaller portions of most entrées.

And I should share with you Carlos' response to me questioning the prices: "I believe you get what you pay for. I would never open a restaurant thinking about the cost line, like everything should be under 10 percent, and then when you taste it, you're like, 'Oh my, what is this?' When you're coming here I'm giving you an experience — top quality."

Wild-caught seafood arrives daily, and those Prime cuts represent the top 2 percent of graded commercial beef. Gorgeous plate presentations get colorful garnishes like microgreens and paper-thin sweet-potato crisps. Bold flavors fuse South American and European influences, such as the Basque-inspired saffron risotto under my steak and accompanying white-wine-and-vinegar-sautéed tomato-and-onion stew, which harkens back to the popular Peruvian version served over french fries.

Spectacular, almost gooey-centered, garlic-seared jumbo sea scallops ($39) circle a tower of grilled vegetables in a rich, semi-spicy aged white cheddar-chipotle cream sauce over pasta. (A gluten-free rice version, in our case; Carlos also stocks GF bread from La Baguette.) And marvelously fresh Chesapeake Bay oysters on the half shell ($10/half dozen) rest on ice inside a giant leaf-shaped glass alongside cocktail sauce, horseradish, a crowned lemon and mini Tabasco bottle.

And how does Carlos' do a daily-special salad? It lofts lobster tail ($19.99, refreshingly split at no charge) above lively honey-tarragon-vinaigrette spring mix flecked with candied pistachios, toasted piñons and goat cheese crumbles. Grapefruit segments provide an accent, but they don't entirely work when incorporated.

The showman

For argument's sake, let's say the prices *do* hold up for the quality proteins and terrific executions. Done. But I yield no ground when calling the hooch and sweets decidedly overpriced.

After inquiring about a signature drink, I was lured to Carlos' Pisco Sour, without asking its price. Out came a fabulous, texturally tantalizing (from the egg whites) foamy treat, with grape brandy softened by tart lime syrup and Angostura bitters. Carlos' Peruvian version slays the similar Chilean version, and one could easily suck down a few, but not at a punishing $15.

Mixed berries with a divine whiskey-vanilla cream sauce, despite arriving in a Chihuly-esque, starfish-shaped glass plate, shouldn't run $12. Nor should a cheesecake crêpe "cigar" with basic accoutrements, as enjoyable as it is, command $10. (We'd actually ordered a key lime pie; the evening's one flaw.)

Which brings me back to the full cost of this meal, including a $4 tea bag in hot water. Post-tip: $199.82. Yum, but ouch.

What other value can I quantify? Well, there's that "experience" Carlos describes, and as with that dessert cigar, he's not really blowin' smoke. There's the black exposed ceiling and black half-walls, painted a textured copper above, with a commanding bar lit by stringed white lights.

Then there's the man whose charisma — my fiancée called him "magnetic" — suggests his 33 years in restaurants has culminated in this one night just for you. Having recently returned from his annual March vacation (during which Carlos' closes), he glowed, relaxed but expressive with a heavy accent, utterly charming in reminiscing about growing up in Lima, Peru, cooking with his father.

He later describes immigrating to the U.S. in 1980, working his way up from dishwasher to cook, and co-dreaming of Carlos' for 20-plus years with Marcia, after the two met while working at the Antlers Hilton. Say what you will about his prices, but he's a self-made man.

So is it all worth it? Most of it, yes; some, no. Certainly, if you can afford it. It truly is a dining experience unlike any other, rendered nearly theatric by the consummate gentleman.

— matthew@csindy.com

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SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

Community cafe coming

By now you've likely heard of the community cafe concept. It's often called the "pay what you can" model, aimed at providing meals to those lacking means, eliminating food waste, and building community. Instead of paying for a meal, folks can trade a service such as dish washing; others who can afford their food choose their own portion and price, in effect partially subsidizing the rest.

One World Everybody Eats Foundation (oneworldeverybodyeatsfoundation.org) started the movement 10 years ago in Salt Lake City. Metro Denver boasts two such places: SAME Café (soallmayeat.org) and Cafe 180 (cafe-180.org). And even Panera Bread has gotten on board with its Panera Cares program (paneracares.org).

There are now around 40 of these independent cafés in the U.S., says Lyn Harwell, former CEO of Springs Rescue Mission, board member and soon-to-be interim executive director of OWEEF, and the driving force behind **Seeds Community Café** (seedscommunitycafe.com). From an executive summary, the cafe is described as "eliminat[ing] hunger and the social barriers associated with food ... in an atmosphere of inclusion."

Harwell hopes to have Seeds up and running by September in the downtown area, but has yet to identify a location. (He notes there have been some discussions related to an interim spot while working with, or out of, the Colorado Springs Public Market, whenever it's able to launch.) A couple other community partners have announced interest in being part of the venture, including Colorado Coffee Merchants as well as the Gotta Love It! Market offshoot we recently profiled, Freedom Foods Co-op.

Harwell adds to OWEEF's outline the extra element of utilizing local growers wherever possible, including Pikes Peak Urban Gardens, and serving as much organic food as possible. He also envisions cooking classes, guest chefs and folks dining together around community tables. He notes that Seeds will be operated as a nonprofit, and that they are seeking volunteers and financial support.

Silly South Africans

And on a completely different note, be careful what your search engine brings up when you go looking for **Juggs**, which actually stands for Just Unbelievably Good Grub, Silly, a new mobile food business that promotes flavors from South Africa.

Co-owner Dirk van der Merwe claims a passion for food and tongue-in-cheek humor — "we took British humor and made it better" he says — and will display both at special events across the region this summer.

Items range from $4 to $7, including custom-made Sara's Sausage beef brats (infused with coriander and black pepper); peri-peri (a South African pepper) pork green chili; curried hamburger "African chili"; an apricot chutney-infused veggie sandwich; barbecue; and "snow bunnies," which are ice cream-stuffed, fried dinner rolls.

— Matthew Schniper

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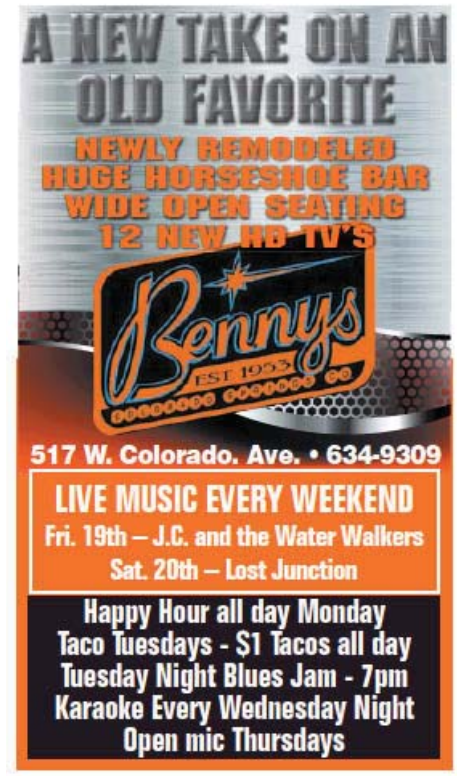
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Billy's Old World Pizza

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It's hard for me to compare Billy's stuffed deep-dish to "the real thing"; first, because I've never eaten in Chicago; but second, and more importantly, because there's no such thing. The so-called authenticity of regional food is mostly subjective, though, of course, there are certain characteristics common to specific dishes.

Like, these pies are usually involved. And, weighing in at roughly five pounds, Billy's 14-inch, stone-baked **Old World Special** ($24.50) definitely is. It took long enough to bake that we had time to run to the store with our full grocery list after ordering to-go. After an airlift to the car, it instantly filled the space with intense smells of bread dough and tomato sauce. Then, cutting into the two-inch-thick monster with a steak knife, we found unevenly spread, but delicious, layers of cheese, fragrant ground sausage, mushrooms, onions and green peppers. Loved the firm, understated crust. — ***Bryce Crawford***

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

5150 N. Nevada Ave., 268-0505, bjsbrewhouse.com

After our first BJ's visits in fall 2010, we reluctantly confessed how "damn good" the newbie was, considering it was just the latest outpost of a massive, Calif.-based chain. Despite one of our reporters nearly getting tossed from an election-night party in 2011, simply for being a journalist, a recent happy hour visit showed staff warmth.

Four **Thai shrimp lettuce wraps** ($8.95/HH) dipped into a ginger soy sauce delivered spicy, sticky-sweet delight. Each came with a trio of charred, juicy prawns nested in Napa cabbage leaves with cilantro, toasted coconut flakes and mango-mint salsa for herby freshness. A new **Brewmaster's Reserve Imperial Red Ale** ($4.50/HH, 10 ounces) — brewed in Boulder at 9-percent ABV as a "hoppier derivative of BJ's award-winning Jeremiah Red Irish Red Ale" — stands with the finest of our local craft beers, a four-hop, six-malt infusion adding ample aromatic and flavor complexity. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Bean Bandit

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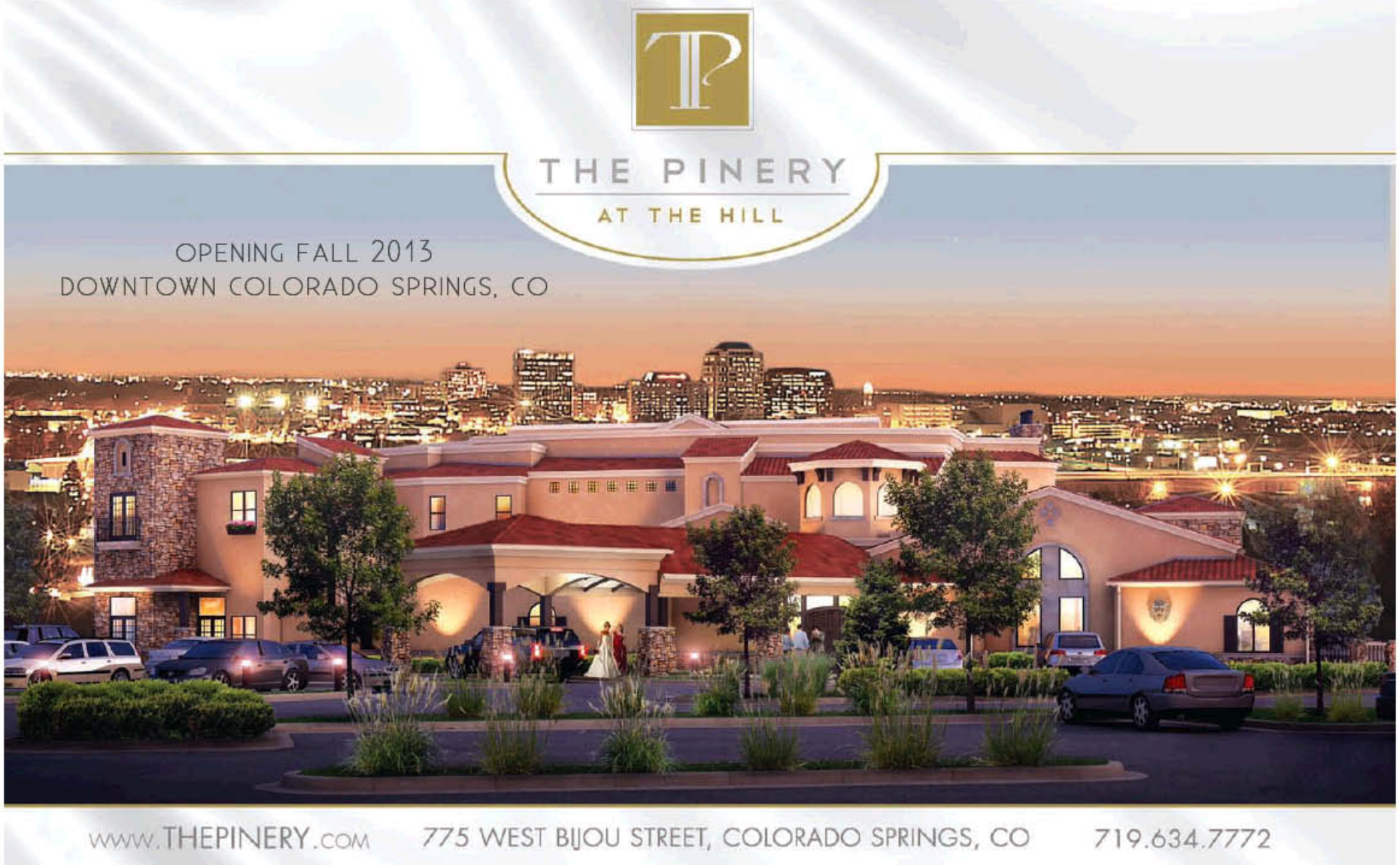
Open since 1966, the Bean Bandit comes off like the cousin of Lakewood's almost-famous Casa Bonita — all that's missing is the cliff diver and Black Bart's Cave. Dig the fountain, fake palm trees, faux balconies with undulating clay roofs, and that certain yellow lighting that makes you uncertain what time it is. The service, however, is multitudes more personal than at the *South Park*-immortalized spot 70 miles north, with our server fixing a mixed-up check with grace, good humor and speed.

As for the food, it too was mixed. If you dig that thicker, Pueblo-style, gravy-ish **green chili** ($7.25), then this is the spot, though the pork chunks were often on the dry-and-chewy side, and the tortillas were only soft at the center. Though rocking great refried beans and Spanish-style rice, the **beef taco and chicken enchilada plate** ($7.25) felt similarly uninspired, full of slightly "off" flavors and yellow cheese. — ***Bryce Crawford***



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Film

Ne'er-do-well, well

***The Sapphires** (PG-13)*

By Anders Wright

The Irish comic actor Chris O'Dowd had his breakout moment with American audiences in 2011 when he played the love interest opposite Kristen Wiig in *Bridesmaids*. Later this year, he'll lend a hand to *Thor: The Dark World*. And last year, between playing a ne'er-do-well brother in *3, 2, 1 ... Frankie Go Boom* and appearing in Judd Apatow's *This Is 40*, O'Dowd starred in *The Sapphires*, released in Australia in August. Incidentally, he plays a ne'er-do-well here, too, in the form of an Irish musician.

As much as one actor can carry a film, even in a minor role, Chris O'Dowd does. But here, he's finally in a leading spot.

The two ne'er-do-wells are obviously somewhat similar, as O'Dowd's done well for himself playing moderately attractive geeks who eventually find their way in the world. And it's to his credit that he's managed to spin this into leading-man success, even if *Sapphires* burdens itself with clichés and doesn't break much new ground. At least it's sweet and sincere, co-written by Tony Briggs, the son of one of the women whose tale is presented in this based-on-a-true-story narrative.

The Sapphires were a girl group composed of four young Aboriginal women who traveled to Vietnam in the late 1960s to entertain American troops with Motown songs. In the film, the group starts as a trio of sisters.

There's Gail (Deborah Mailman), the oldest, and Cynthia (Miranda Tapsell), the wild one, and always tagging along with them is Julie (Jessica Mauboy), the youngest sister, who already has a child but also has the best voice. They're talented singers, desperate to get out of their small Australian hometown, and when they meet drunken Irish musician Dave Lovelace (O'Dowd) at a local music competition, he agrees to manage them and to arrange for a USO audition in the big city.

It's in that city where Kay (Shari Sebbens) lives, the light-skinned cousin they haven't seen since she was snatched away by authorities during the time of the Stolen Generation. There's bad blood between Kay and Gail, because Kay now identifies as a white girl. That sounds heavy, but when *Sapphires* touches on issues of race, it does so in a safe, lightweight way because it's a safe, lightweight film. Enter a quick montage that prepares them for their audition, and then it's off to Vietnam.

Soon, the girls, who've been treated so poorly down under, are a hit in Vietnam, and have all kinds of men courting. Kay finds her own issues aren't so black-and-white when she meets Robby (Tory Kittles), an African-American medic. But Vietnam is also kind of a bummer, because it's, well, Vietnam during the war.

All of these issues — war, violence, racism and infidelity, too — are merely touched upon, designed not to distract from the drama that takes place between four women and their manager. It's all set in a very PG-13 environment, and though there's a bit of violence toward the very end, the end is never truly in doubt. Things are going to wind up OK.

Adapted from a stage play of the same title, *Sapphires* certainly delivers harmless entertainment, blessed with a cast interesting enough to make up for the small budget and less-than-inventive script. Director Wayne Blair's wisest move was casting O'Dowd, who's able to hold together not just the girl group, but also the entire film. He injects it with a little bit of heart and, for a typecast, ne'er-do-well white guy, a lot of soul.

— scene@csindy.com

Film

Remember the future?

Oblivion (PG-13)

By MaryAnn Johanson

Go on! Indulge in the very best movie promo tie-in ever: the *Oblivion*-branded Mandatory Memory Wipe, available at the concession stand. Then you walk into *Oblivion* with no recollection of *2001: A Space Odyssey*

Oblivion *aims, shoots and fails to impact.*

and *Independence Day* and *2012* and *The Road Warrior* and *Planet of the Apes* and the entire history of science-fiction movies, and hence you'll enjoy yourself ever so much more.

And you get to be like Tom Cruise! Because a "mandatory memory wipe" is exactly what his Jack Harper has undergone. It's a security thing, you see, in case he gets captured by the alien Scavengers still scurrying around on Earth, still hanging out even though they lost the war with humans. It's Jack's job, as a sort of roving Maytag repairman, to keep in the air the fleet of drone weapons that are protecting (from Scavenger attack) the ginormous fusion reactors that are turning Earth's oceans into a power source for Titan, moon of Saturn, to which the human survivors of the war have decamped.

Jack's partner, in work and love, is Victoria (Andrea Riseborough), and she's been memory-wiped, too. Only two more weeks to go in their tour of duty, and then it's their turn to head out to the new paradise on Titan.

If you believe that, I've got a bridge in Brooklyn — only slightly damaged by some minor planetary crustal displacement — to sell you.

Of course, you do believe that, just like Jack and Victoria do, because you can't recall having seen anything like this before. To be fair, there is some downside to experiencing *Oblivion* on Mandatory Memory Wipe. Earth may be a radioactive wasteland, all its cities erased from the planet, but it's a bright, sunny kind of post-apocalyptic hellscape. Unfortunately, you won't recall that we haven't seen this before in a science-fiction film, and it is strikingly original.

I don't know if writer-director Joseph Kosinski intends Jack and Victoria's life to be a winking parody of *The Jetsons*, but it's amusing anyway: Their home in the sky is all sci-fi sleek and futuristic, and Jack gets in his shiny bubble helicopter every morning, after getting a kiss on the cheek from Victoria, to fly off on his rounds.

You will drool over the glossy domestic techno-porn that is Jack and Victoria's cushy post-apocalypse lifestyle. The film on the whole is far more visually intriguing than Kosinski's debut, the ugly *Tron: Legacy*. The imagery of the destroyed moon is shocking like a train wreck, a colossal cracked egg in the sky now trailing rings of debris, but also beautiful, too, in a horrific way.

If you're going to see *Oblivion*, see it in IMAX, as I did. Even without a memory wipe, you will get some geeky satisfaction out of its rendering of planet Earth as a newly alien place.

Just don't expect to be much surprised by the derivative plot or characters. Jack is bothered by dreams that feel like the memories he's not supposed to have, and he can't help but investigate things he's told by his bosses to leave alone. The discoveries he makes as a result won't satisfy anyone who might have been hoping for ideas as fresh as the visuals, and the rote sci-fi chases and battles padding out the movie do little to distract from that disappointment.

— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
42 (PG-13)		NOT REVIEWED	NOT REVIEWED	NOT REVIEWED
Oblivion (PG-13)				
The Place Beyond the Pines (R)				
The Sapphires (PG-13)				
Trance (R)				

KEY: Brilliant | Enjoy | Wait for DVD | Lame

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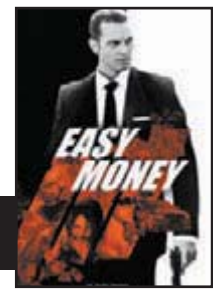


Day of the Falcon (R)

Image Entertainment

Jean-Jacques Annaud is widely regarded as one of our greatest living filmmakers, so to see his latest feature film relegated to straight-to-DVD release is disheartening. And *Day of the Falcon* actually should have been prime Oscar-bait, too — it's truly an epic on par with, yes I'll say it, *Lawrence of Arabia*. Set in the Middle East in the early 20th century, it's an exploration (maybe even an explanation) of how the region became known as one of the richest oil producers in the world, and the massive turf war that sprang from it. Antonio Banderas and Mark Strong headline as the two warring kings, but the movie really belongs to Tahar Rahim, as the bookwormy bargaining chip who goes on to unite the tribes and take on both kingdoms. *Day of the Falcon* is truly grand filmmaking that deserves better than this. ***— Louis Fowler***

Wuthering Heights (NR)

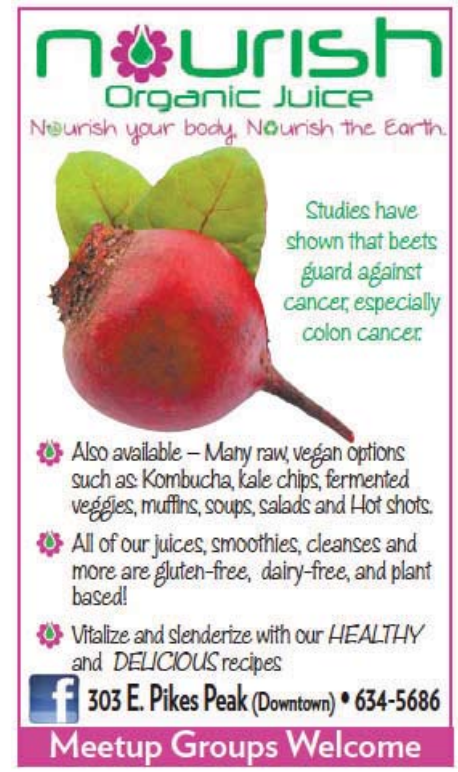
Oscilloscope / Release date: April 23

Emily Brontë's sole novel before her death (at age 30 in 1848) is prime material for *Fish Tank* director Andrea Arnold to adapt for a modern audience: It has cruelty, brutality, *50 Shades of Grey*-tinged sexual tension, and those beautifully harsh Yorkshire moors. Arnold makes a few key adjustments, to be sure. Heathcliff (Solomon Glave) is now an escaped slave, and the self-absorption of Catherine (Kaya Scodelario) is ramped up to the point of insular brattiness. But as with the novel, the unforgiving land here is the star of the show. The film goes for full-on stark conditions, and those famous dark and stormy nights at times seem un-survivable. The flaw here is the book: *Wuthering Heights* is a bore at its core, and stripping the *Masterpiece Theater* pageantry from it all only highlights its weaknesses. ***— Justin Strout***

Easy Money (R)

Anchor Bay Home Entertainment

The way that *Pulp Fiction* spawned countless imitators, so has the recent Ryan Gosling flick *Drive*. As mediocre as that movie was (I know I'm in the minority in thinking that), the imitators are even more rote and routine. And the recent Swedish import *Easy Money* (based on the best-selling novel *Snabba Cash*) is no different. Highly stylized and ultra-gritty, the film stars *The Killing*'s Joel Kinnaman as a lower-class business student doing his best to maintain airs among Stockholm's rich and beautiful jet-set crowd. This is an awfully expensive habit, so he enters into the shady world of drug trafficking and gets mixed up with the Serbian mafia, among other unsavory types. Far too many subplots murk these already unclean waters, making *Easy Money*, at times, uneasy viewing. A bit of simple editing could have done wonders. ***— Louis Fowler***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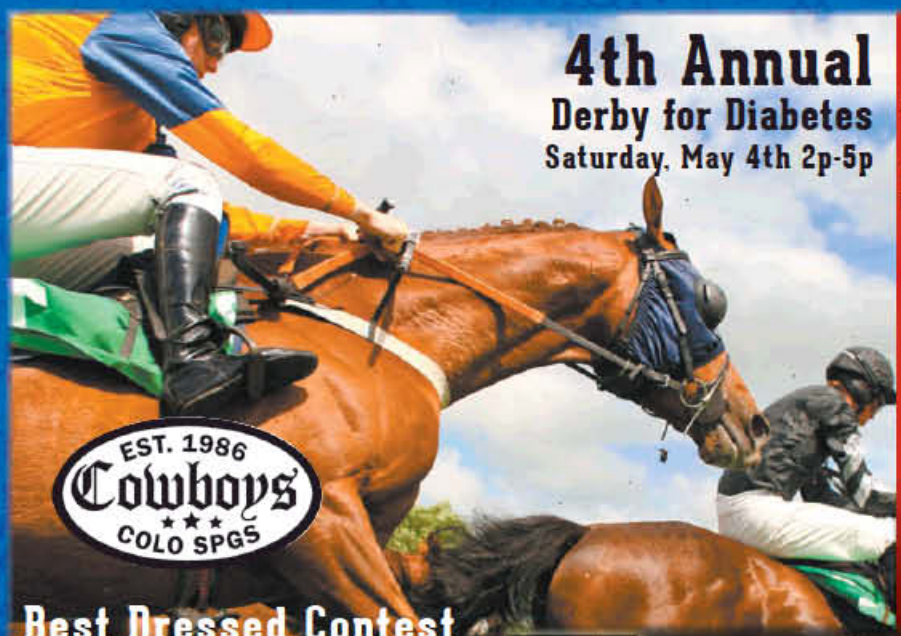

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Art for awe's sake

British 'it band' Alt-J rides a wave of critical success

By Tom Lanham

As with their U.K. peers Wild Beasts and Everything Everything, there really is no modern frame of reference that can be applied to the music of the idiosyncratic, unusually inventive Leeds quartet Alt-J.

Jory Cordy

The Mercury Prize winners have an obvious talent for upward mobility.

The band's indie debut, *An Awesome Wave* — which won last year's prestigious Mercury Prize and was named Album of the Year by BBC Radio 6 — is an intricate, artfully conceived anomaly, with lyrics inspired by esoteric artists like Maurice Sendak, Jean Reno and Hubert Selby. The music is no less eclectic, from the pounding, staccato "Breezeblocks" to the lullaby lilt of "Matilda," all held together by singer Joe Newman's soaring, often gremlin-squeaky vocals.

'We were so starstruck it was embarrassing.'

"Whether we have a sound, or a variety of different sounds, we're not really sure," says Alt-J keyboardist Gus Unger-Hamilton, who met his future bandmates at Leeds University back in 2007. "We just play music that interests us, music that we find interesting and stimulating. So I think our sound probably comes from the fact that we all have very different musical backgrounds, but that's as far as I can analyze it, really."

Unger-Hamilton himself is obsessed with traditional English folk and its current U.K. revivalists. "I really love Pentangle and the Watersons, and contemporary stuff like Laura Marling," he says. "I've met Laura once — me and Joe met her at a party several months ago — and we were so starstruck it was embarrassing."

But it's Newman's arcane wordplay that pushes Alt-J beyond any patented Dylan-isms. "That's what I find really interesting about Joe's lyrics. They're not just nonsense about girlfriends and stuff. It's all existing on a much higher plane."

Before hitting on their quirky moniker, which references the keyboard command that produces the Greek letter Delta, the young art students began recording demos on their dorm room computers under the name Films. Then the four of them, along with guitarist Gwil Sainsbury's girlfriend, all moved into a cramped two-bedroom house in Cambridge, an experience Unger-Hamilton describes as "pretty intense."

"It was very good, creatively — we got a lot done — but certain other people's bad habits rubbed other people the wrong way. Like drinking orange juice from the carton, that was the thin end of the wedge, I would say."

At the very least, it helped band members learn self-sufficiency, always a valuable skill in a world of starving artists. "We cooked cheap but nourishing meals, lots of pasta and tomato sauce and sausages," says Unger-Hamilton. "It kept us going and fueled the creation of our album." Weekend treats were Heinz beans on toast — "IF one of us got a check from our parents. Otherwise it was strictly the market no-name brand."

Most of the recording was done in a small windowed den in the back, which also served as the official Alt-J rehearsal space. To check their e-mails, they would pay visits to the nearest Wi-Fi-enabled library.

But thanks to critical acclaim, international airplay, and slots on the upcoming Bonnaroo and Reading festivals, life is looking up for Alt-J.

"I've got a flat with my girlfriend now," says Unger-Hamilton, thankful for the breathing room. "We're very welcoming — we'll have the guys over for dinner whenever they want to stop by. And we're hoping to maybe even start eating meat again one of these days."

CAPSULE

Alt-J, with Wildcat! Wildcat!

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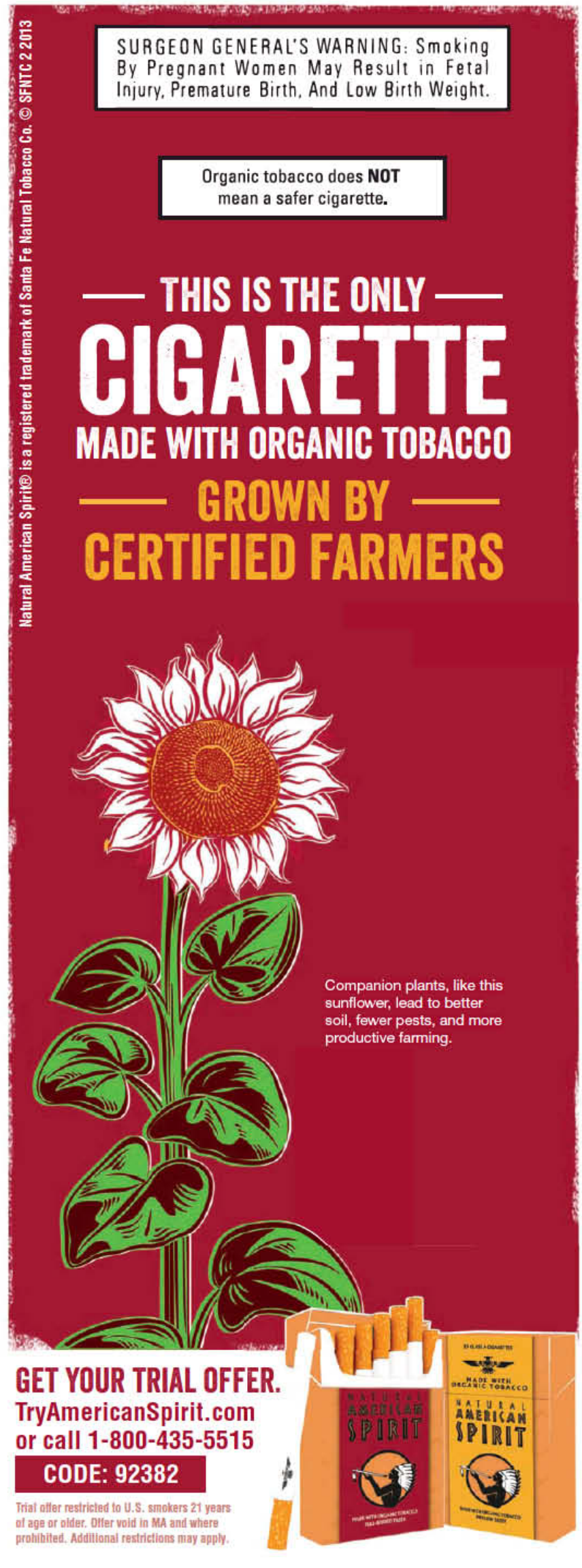
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BY BILL FORMAN

Sometimes truisms proliferate because they're, well, true. That's the case with the biblical adage about prophets being without honor in their hometown, which is especially true in the world of music. Legendary jazz musicians relocated to Europe and Japan, where audiences were appreciative enough to earn them a living, while the most obscure American soul artists have been sought out in the U.K. by everyone from '60s mods to contemporary northern soul aficionados.

99 Bottles: Colorado Springs' only Oi! band.

Here at home, **99 Bottles** might easily be cited as a current example, even though the group has been on the scene since 2009, earned a rapturous reception at last summer's **Front Range Punk Fest**, and went on to play a rousing set at the 2012 **Indy Music Awards** festival.

While local indie-folk acts have become more prevalent than Tejon Street cover bands, the punk scene here is often overlooked. That's one of the reasons why 99 Bottles spend more time on tour and playing Denver haunts like the **Lion's Lair** and **3 Kings** than they do gigging around town.

As a matter of fact, the band just set out on a week-long reprise of last summer's Midwest tour, after which they'll be up in Denver on April 26 to play "a birthday show for shitloads of people" at **Tooey's Off Colfax**.

"We play Denver much more frequently than the Springs," confirms drummer **Sebastian Nutter**, who credits Mile High City punk groups **Bad Engrish** and the **Potato Pirates** for taking 99 Bottles under their wings a few years ago. "We get a better reception up there, and no one in the band is 86ed from bars. They pay out better and they book us on shows that make sense."

Back in the Springs, it's all pretty different. "Yeah, what's the deal with promoters down here never wanting to book us? If we wanna play a show, we have to set the entire thing up band-wise, find a venue, etc. Goes to show Colorado Springs is still years behind most towns as far as venues." (Nutter does, however, express his respect for the **Black Sheep's Chris Huffine** and the **Triple Nickel's Bryan Ostrow**.)

'It's kinda hard to call us racist with a Cuban and a half-black guy in the band.'

As noted in this column after seeing the band perform at last year's Punk Fest, 99 Bottles' slamdance-inspiring originals would fit nicely on a bill with legendary British Oi! punk band **Cock Sparrer**, one comparison the band never gets tired of hearing.

"It's an honor to hear that from anyone," says guitarist **Kyle Kesterson**. "We would be a great opening band for the almighty Cock Sparrer."

In fact, the band identifies itself as Colorado Springs' only Oi! band, a working-class genre that originated in London's East End 35 years ago and was soon fending off the ultra-right National Front's attempts to co-opt skinhead culture. So it's no surprise that a lot of bands who look and sound like 99 Bottles are still dealing with that stereotype.

"It's kinda hard to call us racist with a Cuban and a half-black guy in the band," points out Nutter.

Kesterson, who's half-Jamaican, agrees. "Anyone who knows what traditional skinhead is about knows there is no room for hate or racism of any kind. Back in February onstage, I was flashed neo-Nazi tattoos," the guitarist recalls. "That stuff really messes with my head. It almost ended our show. The scene is everything to me, and I'll fight forever to keep it pure." As for class consciousness, Kesterson says "the working class is the only thing this band knows."

Well, technically, that's not true. "Although I'm not a skinhead — and not working-class at the moment 'cos I'm unemployed — I still relate myself to that class," says lead guitarist **Zeb Dyer**." And Nutter? "I spent years and years working in kitchens, but now I work a desk job. Thank fuck."

Upon its return, the band (which also includes vocalist **Mario Dalla Betta** and bassist **Mike Carbonell**) plans to focus on booking shows here in the Springs. Nutter, who's helping plan this year's Punk Fest, will also be launching an online store featuring the band's records — there are a couple split-singles and an EP, with a full-length album on the way — along with merchandise that includes a pretty striking 99 Bottles scarf. In the meantime, you can find music and merch at facebook.com/99bottlesoi.

As for the more immediate future, vinyl enthusiasts and potheads can join together for the convergence of **Record Store Day** and **4/20** Saturday at the **Leechpit,** where special-release platters will be accompanied by live performers, including **Grant Sabin, We Are Not a Glum Lot, Iggy Igloo & the Penguins**, and **Drug Flowers** from noon to 4:20.

The celebration will continue Saturday evening at the **Ancient Mariner** with **Melting Temple**, a band that's been known to play a pretty mean version of **Ray Charles**' "Let's Get Stoned." Although I'm pretty sure Brother Ray meant that in a strictly biblical sense.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Wednesday 04/17

Back East, *Mikey Louis (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Family of the Year, The Mowgli's, Floaty Raft (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $12-$14.
Club Q, *Open Mic Night (open mic),* 10 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Paula Nelson (country),* 6 p.m.
Frankie's, *Open Mic (open mic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range Barbeque, *Mason Reed, Jason Miller, Jason Gilmore (Americana),* 7:30 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Trusedell Trio feat. Julie Bradley (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Acoustic Open Mic Night (open mic),* 8 p.m., $5, free for jammers.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Rawkus, *eLevated Wednesday, with Digital Girl, CurlyOnE (dance),* 9 p.m.
Rico's, *Benjamin Pratt (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Rawbert & I (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, *Colorado Springs Contemporary Jazz Big Band (jazz),* 6 p.m.
Zodiac, *'80s Nite with DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 04/18

Adam's, *Dave Tipton (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Stolen Idol Productions presents Open Mic (open mic),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band (open mic),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Filter, Red Line Chemistry, Girl On Fire (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $17-$20.
Blue Moose Tavern, *Open Mic with Chauncy Crandall (open mic),* 8 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Pub Sing-along with Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *The Other Band (rock/pop),* 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Cash O'Riley (dance),* 8 p.m.
Motif, *Tricia Parrish (jazz),* 7:15 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Serge (dance),* 9 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Brewery, *Blue Dog Saints (rock/pop),* 7:30 p.m.
Spice Island Grill, *Reggae Nights (world),* 8 p.m.

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Back East Bar & Grill, 9475 Briar Village Point, 264-6161
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
The Blue Moose Tavern, 10530 Ute Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls, 418-3384
Bricks Sports Bar & Grill, 1840 N. Academy Blvd., 638-2022
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Bronco Billy's Casino, 233 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, 877/989-2142
Carey-On Saloon, 6829 Space Village Ave., 591-0300
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
The Coffee Exchange, 526 S. Tejon St., 635-0277
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Frankie's Too!, 7376 McLaughlin Road, Falcon, 495-8707
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
The Grove Tavern, 901 E. C St., Pueblo, 719/544-4815
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, 2817 N. Nevada Ave., 344-9593
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
Keg Lounge, 730 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9531
The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 445-9278
Lounge in the Village, 3440 W. Carefree Circle, 550-9721
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

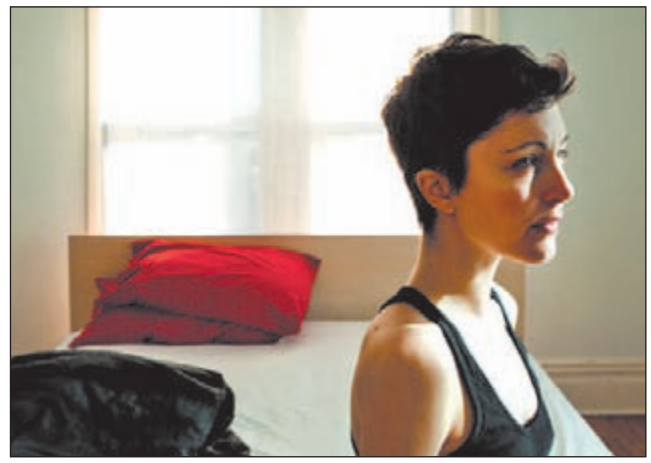
Stargazers, *Jake Loggins (blues),* 7 p.m.
Sunshine Studios, *Seeker, Forty Winters, Hearthercrest (hardcore),* 6:30 p.m., $10.
Triple Nickel, *Truckstop Darlin' (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.

Friday 04/19

Ancient Mariner, *Argyle Gangsters (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Adam's, *Dave Tipton (acoustic),* 9 a.m.
Back East, *Mayhem (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *J.C. & the Water Walkers (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Sleepswithbears, Vital Malice, Nuk-L-Hed, Omnyn* (metal), 7:30 p.m., $5-$7.
Bricks, *The Jinx Band (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Cleats, *Fishtank Piranhas (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
The Coffee Exchange, *Blue Sky Call (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *The J. Miller Band (Americana),* 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Todd Nuill (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Frankie's Too!, *Tyler Halsey & The Star Bars (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Mistura Bela/Barbara Ernst (world),* 6:30 p.m.
The Grove Tavern, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 9 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brandon Henderson (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *Inman Brothers (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.
Keg Lounge, *Arch Hooks (R&B),* 9:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Mountain Road Ceili Band (world),* 6:30 p.m.
McCabe's Tavern, *Danny & The Fried Shrimp (Americana),* 8 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Luke Ellington Blues Band (blues),* 9 p.m.
Motif, *Steve Langemo Trio (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.
Prime Time Showcase, *The Other Band (rock/pop),* 5:30 p.m.
Rawkus, *Webbie, HOTT, DJ Spydatec (hip-hop),* 9 p.m.
Red Martini, *Dick Cunico (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Rico's, *Wayne Wilkinson (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Serge (dance),* 9 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Less Than Zero (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *The Long Run (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $15-$20.
Sunshine Studios, *Life Not Our Own, Forsake It All, December Downfall (rock/pop),* 6:30 p.m., $8.
Townhouse, *The Upside (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *John Statz, Kiel Grove, Jimmy Lee (Americana),* 9 p.m.
Union Station, *Juggalo Jam (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Ute Inn, *Radio London (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
VFW Post 6461, *Casey James Prestwood and the Burning Angels (country),* 7:30 p.m.
Wyatt's, *Pup Morse, the Original Scuba Cowboy (country),* 8:30 p.m.
Zodiac, *Autumn Creatures, Sleeping Thieves, War Parts, Forget the Forecast (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 04/20

Ancient Mariner, *Jesse Cotton Stone Band (blues),* 9 p.m.
Back East, *Mayhem (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Lost Junction (Americana),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Voodoo Glow Skulls, Left Alone, Hussy, Murder Hat (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $12-$14.
Blue Moose Tavern, *Blue Frog (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Bronco Billy's Casino, *The Storys (folk),* 7 p.m.
Carey-On Saloon, *Exit West (country),* 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Inman Brothers (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Barbara Ernst, Laurie Brauneis (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Frankie's, *Tyler Halsey & The Star Bars (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
The Grove Tavern, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 9 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Stubby Shillelaghs (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *Les Racquet (indie),* 9 p.m.
The Loft, *Barry and Michelle Patterson, Esther Sparks & the Whiskey Remedy CD Releases (indie),* 7 p.m.
Lounge in the Village, *West Side Rhythm Kings (blues),* 8 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Planet O (dance),* 8 p.m.
Motif, *Susan Rissman and Friends (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., *Devon, Hagler, & Brickler (rock/pop),* 7 p.m.
Prime Time Showcase, *The Other Band (rock/pop),* 5:30 p.m.
Rawkus, *The Knightbeats (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Rico's, *New Vintage Jazz (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Party Marty (dance),* 9 p.m.
Sky Box Lounge, *The Reid Holmes Invitational "Live Music Jam" (open mic),* 8 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Less Than Zero (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Stadium Bar and Grill, *6035 (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Stargazers, *Moses Jones (country),* 8 p.m., $10.
Sunshine Studios, *Mr. Skeleton, Rob De Large, Covalence (dance),* 6:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *Arch Hooks (R&B),* 9 p.m.
Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, *Colin Hay (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $25-$30.
Triple Nickel, *Pete Stein (Americana),* 9 p.m.
Union Station, *Habitual, He Kill 3, Pain Machine (hardcore),* 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Will's Sports Pub, *Determyned (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *The Lazy Spacemen, Circles and Squares (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.



Polica comes to Denver's Bluebird Theater April 22.

BigGigs

Family of the Year, Black Sheep, April 17 • **Filter**, Black Sheep, April 18 • **Colin Hay**, Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Palmer Lake, April 20 • **The Motet, Ozomatli**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 20 • **Voodoo Glow Skulls**, Black Sheep, April 20 • **Broadway Calls**, Black Sheep, April 22 • **Moreland & Arbuckle**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 27 • **Face to Face**, Black Sheep, April 28 • **Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!**, Black Sheep, April 30 • **Whiskey Fingers**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, May 3 • **Chris Duarte Group**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, May 4 • **John Prine**, Pikes Peak Center, May 4 • **Paramore**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 7 • **Armin Van Buuren**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 8 • **Stu Hamm**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, May 11 • **Fabolous, Pusha T**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, May 14 • **Imagine Dragons**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, May 16 • **Miranda Lambert, Dierks Bentley**, Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre, Englewood, May 18 • **Limp Bizkit**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 18 • **Dropkick Murphys**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 29 • **Buddy Whittington with the Atomic Fireballs**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, May 31 • **Bassnectar**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, May 31-June 1 • **Fleetwood Mac**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 1 • **Gina Sicilia**, Venue 515, Manitou Springs, June 1 • **Taylor Swift**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 2 • **The xx**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, June 3 • **Sting**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 5 • **Darius Rucker, with Rodney Atkins**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 6 • **Umphrey's McGee, Dr. Dog**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 7 •

Sunday 04/21

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world),* 3 p.m.
Retired Enlisted Association, *Sunday Blues Jam with Tracy Quinn Band (blues),* 3 p.m.
Smiley's, *Blue Frog (blues),* 11 a.m.
Stargazers, *Starburn (rock/pop),* 6 p.m.

Monday 04/22

Black Sheep, *Broadway Calls, Take It to 88, Sleeping Weather (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $10.
Zodiac, *Soul Sessions VII, with Andrea Stone (R&B),* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 04/23

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic),* 6 p.m.
Benny's, *Sweet T's Rude Blues Jam (blues),* 7 p.m.
Townhouse, *Jam Night, with Tim Costello (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Raid (dance),* 9 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098
Prime Time Showcase, 4659 Centennial Blvd., 260-2372
Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522
Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927
Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
Rocky Mountain Brewery, 625 Paonia St., 528-1651
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
Smiley's Bakery and Café, 323 N. Tejon St., 328-9447
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487
Spice Island Grill, 10 N. Sierra Madre St., 473-8280
Stadium Bar and Grill, 6120 Barnes Road, 302-0969
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Sunshine Studios, 3970 Clearview Frontage Road, 392-8921
Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168
Ute Inn, 204 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-1465
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
VFW Post 6461, 753 S. Santa Fe Ave., Fountain, 382-7957
Will's Sports Pub, 424 S. Nevada Ave., 475-2122
Wyatt's Pub & Grill, 806 Village Center Drive, 598-4100
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

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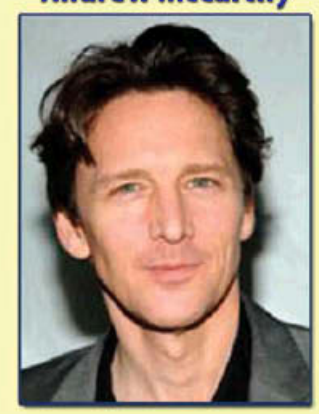
A Conversation with Andrew McCarthy

Andrew McCarthy, an actor best known for his roles in films like *St. Elmo's Fire, Mannequin, Weekend at Bernie's, Pretty in Pink,* and *Less Than Zero,* will be coming to Colorado Springs to discuss his new book, *The Longest Way Home.*
When: Tuesday, April 30
Where: Stargazers Theatre, 10 South Parkside Drive
Reception: 4 - 6 p.m. Tickets are $30 before April 20 ($40 after), and include reserved seating at author talk. **Call (719) 531-6333, x2205 to purchase tickets.**
Heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, and beer will be served. There will be a meet-and-greet and book signing with McCarthy. Books will be available for purchase.
Presentation: 7 - 8 p.m. (Free)
Book signing: 8 - 9 p.m. (Free)
PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT ppld.org

Ghost B.C. in the machine

With assists from Dave Grohl and Darkthrone, the sacrilegious Swedes are primed for the big time

By Bill Forman

"You're confirmed for 11 a.m. Wednesday morning. You will have 15 minutes with a nameless ghoul."

'Our music does have popular elements, but shit, so did most bands from the '70s.'

Last week's message from Ghost B.C.'s publicist, while amusing, was also a little worrying. With its conspicuously costumed anonymity (think Residents, KLF, Kiss), the Swedish metal band's attention-getting image overshadowed one of the most musically intriguing debut albums of 2010. The band has also conducted interviews in costume and in character, with voices electronically altered, making the prospect of one more deadpan interview with a "nameless ghoul" seem unpromising.

So it was a relief when Ghost's guitarist unexpectedly spent 30 minutes talking about music and Mayhem, upcoming B-sides with Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl, and, of course, corpse-painted frontman Papa Emeritus II's failed campaign for Pope.

Yes, the identities are still secret, at least for now, and the lyrics, in English and Latin, are appropriately sacrilegious. But Ghost's music continues to evolve. Sophomore album *Infestissumam*, released Tuesday, boasts highly melodic vocals, catchy unison guitar parts, and keyboard-heavy arrangements that compare favorably to Blue Oyster Cult-era metal, vintage prog-rock, even West Coast psychedelia.

Surprisingly, the band continues to find favor among black metal fans, not least because Darkthrone co-founder Fenriz praised Ghost as a combination of metallurgists Mercyful Fate and Estonian composer Arvo Pärt.

Meanwhile, the band's cross-genre appeal threatens to make 2013 the year Ghost hits big. Here's a Nameless Ghoul to tell you all about it.

***Indy*: Listening to the new single "Secular Haze," with its ¾ time signature and keyboards that sound like a circus calliope, I have to wonder: Did you ever expect the metal community to embrace you the way it has?**

Nameless Ghoul: When we began working on the first album, we had in mind the music and imagery that we ourselves would want to hear and see. The songs are sort of dramatic and moving, and the imagery and ideas made the band seem a bit bigger in people's minds, maybe, than we actually were. And we were very lucky when Fenriz of Darkthrone blogged about us as his "band of the week." Obviously his following is predominantly the metal community, and we come from a metal background ourselves.

Our music *does* have popular elements, but shit, so did most bands from the '70s as well. We knew it was weird and sort of catchy, but we didn't know that three years later we'd be in the position we're in right now: being on a major label, releasing our second album, and being able to play places like the Ogden Theatre and Coachella.

***Indy*: I'm surprised you mention the Ogden. Most bands, especially coming from Europe, wouldn't know what state I'm calling from, let alone what venue they'll be playing here.**

Nameless Ghoul: Right, right. I'm a stickler for venues. I think that if there's one ingredient to making it, especially as a band like Ghost, it's being interested in a lot of aspects that go outside just the immediate aesthetic part.

Because if you're just a bunch of 22-year-olds that are out there to get fucked up, you don't learn anything. Most of those bands just get spit out a couple years later, and then they're completely destroyed because they didn't know what happened. We're slightly older and we've been in bands before that have toured to some extent. So we know that, in order to make it fly, we really need to be focused. Because it's so easy to just fall apart otherwise.

***Indy*: In terms of staging, the corpse makeup is the thing that most evokes black metal. As teenagers, were you guys into bands like Immortal and the kind of theatricality they favored?**

Nameless Ghoul: I personally really like that whole black metal movement of the early '90s. Up until '94.

***Indy*: Back when it was more raw?**

Nameless Ghoul: Yeah. When a lot of those bands got to their third record, that's when everything began to change in a way that made it very uninteresting, for me at least. And before that, it was the whole death metal thing, and thrash. And yeah, that's a big part of the DNA of Ghost.

Also, there was an element of inaccessibility about a band like Mayhem back before the Internet. And that's what we've tried to do with Ghost, to be a band that you didn't know everything about.

***Indy*: And with regard to being nameless, is there some way you could assure me that you're not former Pink Floyd or Moody Blues members, or some kind of Coldplay side-project?**

Nameless Ghoul: No, I can't really guarantee you that, no.

***Indy*: I want to ask a non-musical question about vocalist Papa Emeritus and his Internet campaign for Pope. How disappointed was he about not being chosen?**

Nameless Ghoul: From our point of view, we weren't complaining when he didn't land the job, because he had signed up with us. But to him it *was* an annoyance, which is understandable. I mean, he saw the vacancy as a potential career move, whereas playing with these five dudes from Linköping might not be in the same way. I mean, put next to being Pope?

CAPSULE

Ghost, with Ides of Gemini and Speedwolf

Thursday, April 18, 8:30 p.m.

Ogden Theatre, 935 E. Colfax Ave., Denver

Tickets: $20.75/adv, $25/door, 16-plus; ogdentheater.net, 800/745-3000.

***Indy*: There *are* a lot of advantages, like getting to ride around in the Popemobile.**

Nameless Ghoul: Yeah, well, we promised to make it up to him a little bit. We're gonna rent him one.

***Indy*: Is the Vatican renting them now?**

Nameless Ghoul: Yeah, they're leasing, and they cut us a really good deal. So it worked out way better for everyone in the long run.

***Indy*: I should also ask how you first hooked up with Dave Grohl.**

Nameless Ghoul: We both played at a festival; I don't remember whether it was Lowlands in Holland or Pukkelpop in Belgium. And since we knew that he was a fan of the band, we thought, "Well, let's have our people call his people and maybe we can go over there." So we went to say hi, and pretty quickly got to the point of, "You want to do something?" And he was like, "Yeah!"

***Indy*: Did he engineer the sessions?**

Nameless Ghoul: He was more of a producer. And he played drums on a few songs.

***Indy*: Which ones?**

Nameless Ghoul: He played drums on [the ABBA cover] "Marionette" and "Waiting for the Night," a Depeche Mode cover we did. And he played a little bit of guitar and other things on a few of the other songs we recorded. So it was very much a playful thing where we came in with the material, rehearsed a little bit, and just recorded.

***Indy*: And finally, I saw a video online where an interviewer asked when the apocalypse was coming, and you — well, *one* of you — said that it was already ongoing, and seemed to allude to the environment. Are you guys concerned about that?**

Nameless Ghoul: The environment? I think that any person in the world that doesn't at least give the environment some sort of thought doesn't deserve to live in it. I wouldn't say that we have an environmental agenda, but we do sing about mankind, and we're mirror-reflecting the human mind and the human psyche and how people treat each other. And one of the most obvious ways of seeing mankind's failing in general is to just open up your window and smell it. I mean, there you have the apocalypse, that's the end of the world.

— bill@csindy.com

Breaking camp

Family of the Year gives its indie-folk approach a more polished pop veneer

By Chris Parker

CAPSULE

Family of the Year, with the Mowgli's, Floaty Raft

Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m. door

Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave.

Tickets: $12/adv, $14/door, all ages; blacksheeprocks.com, 227-7625.

With the ebullient harmonies, swelling arrangements, and folksy undertones of the group's 2009 debut *Songbook*, it's not hard to imagine Family of the Year as five nature-struck kids getting their Kumbaya on.

Claire Vogel

Family circle: 'We're definitely big on the cliché of sitting by the fire pit, drinking and singing songs.'

"We're definitely big on the cliché of sitting outdoors by the fire pit, drinking and singing songs," says Sebastian Keefe, who co-founded the band with his brother Joe. "To different degrees we're definitely all nature people. We're still a good 65 percent city slickers and a solid 35 percent outdoorsy."

The Brothers Keefe grew up in Martha's Vineyard and played in bands together, releasing albums as the Billionaires and Unbusted. The latter band landed three songs on the soundtrack to the Farrelly Brothers' 2003 movie *Stuck on You*.

Five years ago they hopped coasts to Orange County, Calif., where the duo began creating music with Vanessa Long, who was also Joe's girlfriend. Long moved on, as did several other bandmates, leaving the remaining core quartet to rethink their sound.

"We were kind of trying to find our footing and our identity. We began to play more and more live and started to get our sound," says Sebastian during a break from the band's first headlining tour. "The songwriting process hasn't really changed, only the way we presented it. Nothing's been a conscious decision, other than turning down a little bit and going back to the basics."

Along the way, there have been significant breaks. Ben Folds handpicked Family of the Year to open for him at a show featuring the Boston Pops; it was the group's third show ever. More cherry tours followed with Gomez, Edward Sharpe, and Mumford & Sons.

Meanwhile, last year's *Loma Vista* found the band taking a more unabashedly pop approach on tracks like "St. Croix" and "Living on Love," while still putting the vocals front and center in the mix.

"When Joe and Vanessa wrote *Songbook* it sounded fresh and really new. But by the time that we were in our 'transitional phase' it seemed like every single band was trying to sound like that. I remember a time period where we realized, holy shit, everyone thinks they're Neil Young. So we kind of went back to our beginnings."

While the brothers had started out playing noisy, '90s-inflected rock, they'd never skimped on hooks. And that's what they return to on the upbeat and über-catchy, Foster the People-style *Loma Vista*, mothballing their acoustic instruments in favor of jangly guitars and shimmery keyboard-assisted indie pop.

"They were big pop songs, if you ask me, like a lot of the bands that Joe and I have been playing in," says Sebastian. "We've kind of brought it back up again."

The album also boasts twee-pop arrangements and engaging duets between Joe and co-vocalist Christine Schroeter. "She's been a huge force in the songwriting and the overall vibe in the band," says Sebastian. "I can't help but notice there are a whole lot of bro bands out there."

— scene@csindy.com

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Listings

Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

ArtEvents

Bemis School of Art classes, offering a vast variety of classes for all ages and skill levels, covering topics like encaustic, beginning oil painting, art history, multimedia, fiber art, jewelry, anime art and more. Bemis School of Art, 818 Pelham Place, 475-2444, csfineartscenter.org.

Clay Art Classes, a variety of classes on topics like paper-clay, raku, handbuilding and wheel throwing. Through May 1. Cup and Bowl Gallery, 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 719/404-3469, cupandbowl.org.

New Art Classes, a selection of new courses in coffee painting, photo jewelry and more, running now through summer. E-mail for details. Through Aug. 31. Verve, 2513½ W. Colorado Ave., 351-7030, verveartmarket@gmail.com, facebook.com/verveartmarket.

A Night of Energy, an event advocating sustainability featuring visual artists, musicians, poets, performers and more. Sun., April 21, 3 p.m. $10. Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Third Friday ArtWalk, a special evening of exhibit receptions, art demos, and more throughout Manitou Springs, including the Colorado Springs Writers Reading open mic, held at the Business of Art Center. Fri., April 19, 5 p.m. facebook.com/3rdfridayartwalkmanitou

Woodland Park Art Walk, an evening of art receptions, demonstrations and other activities at a dozen Woodland Park art galleries including the Seven Arrows Gallery, the Woodland Park Arts Alliance and others. Third Friday of every month, 4-7 p.m. 302-2282, woodlandparkarts.com.

ArtExhibits

Academy Frame Company, 7620 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframeco.com. *Art Aloud*, an exhibition of work expressing the written word in celebration of National Poetry Month. Opening reception Fri., April 19, 4 p.m.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *Tandem*, a collaborative exhibit in which Bridge Gallery members paired up to create unified works of art. Showing in the Commons Gallery, *Ag, Pt, Pd, Au*, works by Bill Starr. Through April 28.

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *Wunderfotographie: A Retrospective*, an exhibition of student work from those that have studied photography with Lilian Critchlow over the past five years. *Wunderkind Alumni*, an exhibition of works from young local artists featured in previous editions of the BAC's annual *Wunderkind* show. *Wunderkind*, the BAC's annual celebration of young artists from many local public and private schools, including Pikes Peak Prep, Pine Creek High School and the Fountain Valley School. "Wunderkind 2013" Gallery Talk, Sat., April 20, 3 p.m. All shows through April 20.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Families*, a multidisciplinary project featuring two exhibits, *A Family Affair: Selections from the Progressive Art Collection*, a multimedia show featuring numerous angles on the idea of family from contemporary and emerging artists and *Mother: Photography by Carol S. Dass*, a solo show by this local photographer seeing her mother through new eyes. Through May 19.

Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 391-5257, fvs.edu. Tri-Peaks League Student Art Exhibit, a selection of works from artists at local high schools, including Fountain Valley, St. Mary's, Manitou Springs, Salida, Buena Vista, Florence and James Irwin. Through April 20.

CK Comics and Collectibles, 719 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 344-9045, tinyurl.com/ckcomics. *PULP*, an exhibition of superhero and sci-fi art from K8e and Jon Orr. Opening reception Friday, April 19, 6 p.m.

GOCA 1420 at UCCS, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 255-3504, galleryuccs.org. *An Exquisite Corpse*, the annual UCCS Senior Art Exhibition, is based this year around the 1920's drawing tradition that calls upon artists to collaborate in the creation of an unpredictable work. April 19 to May 25. Opening reception Fri., Apr. 19, 5-8 p.m.

I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College, Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6066, theideaspace.com. *A Place Apart: Colorado and the American West*, a collection of photographs by Robert Adams, who taught English at Colorado College in the 1960s before going on to become one of the American West's most renowned photographers. April 22 to May 14.

J's Gameroom & Café, 3047 Jet Wing Drive, 392-2714, jsgameroom.com. *Bold and Captivating*, an exhibition from the Colorado Springs Creative Photography Group. Through April 30.

The London Group, 731 N. Weber St., 277-0700. Art Aloud, a selection of works by local artists inspired by the written and spoken word, in hon-

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PICK **Marika's Coffeehouse,** 739 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4438, marikascoffeehouse.com. *The Road Show*, an exhibition of paintings from Joe Bishop, who is physically disabled and unable to speak. Opening reception Friday, April 19, 6 p.m.

or of National Poetry Month. Closing reception Fri., Apr. 26, 4-7 p.m.

Mediterranean Cafe, 118 E. Kiowa St., 633-0115, medcafe-co.com. *Poems and Arts*, a celebration of National Poetry Month featuring exhibited haiku, haiga and origami cranes. Through April 30.

Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, coloradospringsvenue.com. *Alexis Elza*, a series of paintings from Elza's "Project Series." Through June 30.

PICK **S.P.Q.R.,** 17 B E. Bijou St., 633-4240. *Historical Curiosity: Works by Trevor Thomas*, a solo show by Thomas, a classical artist who worked with local mural artist Eric Bransby. Through April 26.

Auditions&Entries

20th Annual Hummingbird Festival seeks nature-themed arts and crafts vendors for its May celebration in North Cheyenne Cañon. Deadline for vendors is April 26. 385-6086.

ArtoCade seeks art cars for a new weekend event happening in Trinidad in September. Details available online, along with stipend information (some are eligible) and an application. artcarfun@hotmail.com, historictrinidad.com/artocade.html.

Business of Art Center seeks square artworks be created and donated to the center for its *Art Squared* exhibition in June. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Colorado Association for Recycling seeks entries for its seventh annual Recycling Poster Contest, open to students grades K-12. Prizes include gift cards and workshops from Project Learning Tree. Visit the website for more information and entry guidelines. Deadline: April 26, 2013. 583-4309, aldred@co.pueblo.co.us, cafr.org/events/posterContest.php.

Millibo Art Theatre seeks acrobats, jugglers, stilt walkers, unicyclists, clowns and others to audition for its production *The Incredible Circus Millibo*. Auditions are by appointment only during the week of April 13-20. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project seeks submissions of original poetry from El Paso and Teller County residents of all ages for the 2014 edition of *Poetry While You Wait*. Submit up to four poems via e-mail by May 31. poet@pikespeakpoetlaureate.org.

Pueblo Performing Arts Guild seeks visual artists and performers of all types to come audition during the listed time period. Sat., April 20, noon to 4 p.m. Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo, 719/242-6652, pueblopag.org.

Rampart Rock'N Jazz seeks sopranos, tenors and altos to join a four-to-eight-part R&B harmony group. 313-6131, rampartrocknjazz.com.

Sangre de Cristo Arts Center seeks artists to participate in its annual holiday sale entitled *Own Your Own*. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdcarts.org/upcomingexhibits.html.

Smokebrush Foundation seeks bicycle-themed artwork for its ninth annual Roll Bike Art Festival in August. This year's juried theme is "nine million bicycles." Deadline for entries is June 24. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Wrong Way Press seeks illustrated stories and fables à la Kafka, Thurber or the Brothers Grimm for publication. Submission deadline: May 1; see website for guidelines. 832/816-6815, wrongwaypress.com.

Clubs&Organizations

Colorado Springs Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant & Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 425-6004, reports.toastmasters.org/findaclub/zoomclub.cfm?clubNumber=555.

Deaf Chat, a chance to meet and greet others in the deaf community. Third Friday of every month, 3-6 p.m. Colorado Springs Independence Center, 729 S. Tejon St., 471-8181, csicindliving.org.

EntSpirational Speakers Toastmasters Club, a public-speaking and leadership club meeting at 7350 Campus Drive. First and third Wednesday of every month, 12:05 p.m. entspirational.toastmastersclubs.org.

Parrotheads of Colorado Springs, a Jimmy Buffett appreciation group committed to supporting the local community through volunteerism and fundraising. E-mail for info on upcoming events and projects. Ongoing. finsup.co.

Peak Freedom Festival, a day-long celebration from the Peak Freedom Forum. Sat., April 20. $35-$95. Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadmoor Valley Road, 800/428-8886, peakfreedomforum.org.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit

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meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Amputee Connection Monthly Support Group Meeting, meet others with limb loss for peer support, education, recreational resources and more. Third Wednesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. TGI Friday's, 7061 Commerce Center Drive, 599-4135, ppaccs.com.

Comedy&Improv

Chris Reid, April 18-20. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonees Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Improv Colorado, family friendly entertainment. Fri., April 19, 7:37 p.m. $8-$10. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, improvcolorado.com. On Sat., April 20, IC will host a $20 workshop on improv comedy. E-mail improvcolorado@gmail.com to sign up.

Concerts

PICK **African Children's Choir,** a song and dance performance from the internationally touring troupe of spiritual and gospel youth performers. Fri., April 19, 7 p.m. First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave., 633-8888, africanchildrenschoir.com.

American Music Society, a selection of pieces from classical, contemporary, impressionist and American composers, performed by accomplished amateurs. Sun., April 21, 2:30 p.m. Gateway Presbyterian Church, 731 Castle Road, 360-4573, theamericanmusicsociety.org.

Conservatory Soirée, featuring live jazz and blues from Conservatory faculty and alumni, plus tapas and happy hour drink specials. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; through April 27. Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522, csnightclubs.com.

Friends House Concerts, house concerts: Antje Duvekot, Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. ($25), Peter Mulvey, Sun., June 16, 7 p.m. ($25). Payment should be checks made out to Friends House Concerts. house-concerts.org.

New Century Big Band, Sun., April 21, 3 p.m. $8-$10. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave.

Phil Volan & Joleen Bell, the acclaimed acoustic duo, presented by MAMA (Mountain Acoustic Music Association), with local openers Jeff "Brady" Glicken, Rick Rodriguez and Rebecca Massey. Fri., April 19, 7 p.m. $5. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 502-0581, mountainacoustic.org.

The Showcase at Studio Bee, performances from Smooth Stones, BJ Estares, and Yer Mom. Thurs., April 18, 6:45 p.m. Free. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

Symphony Number 5, the romantic masterwork of Sibelius, Finland's greatest composer, by the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Josep Caballé-Domenech conducting. Sat., April 20, 8 p.m. $19-$59. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, csphilharmonic.org.

DanceParties&Classes

Andante Blues Dance, a chance to dance this "distinctly American dance." A beginners lesson provided. No partner required. Fridays, 9 p.m. $4-$6 donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, kkschmidt@lettucebrain.com, movementartscs.com.

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $3-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

Live Dance Bands, live music to rhumba, waltz, polka or cha-cha to, with free dance classes on the first, third and fifth Thursday of the month. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. $7-$9. International Dance Club, 2422 Busch Ave., 633-0195, internationaldanceclub.org.

DancePerformances

Jamoral, a performance from this local West African dance troupe incorporating percussion rhythm, dance rhythm and song. Sat., April 20, 7 p.m. $12-15. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Ormao Student Repertory Performance, a recital showcasing dancers from Ormao Senior

EarthDay

Earth Day at Garden of the Gods, a celebration featuring festivities for all ages, including bands, live animals, American Indian dancers, free admission to Rock Ledge Ranch, and free lunch for all who participate in the park cleanup. Go online for full schedule. Sat., April 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 634-6666, gardenofgods.com.

Earth Day Celebration, a tour of sustainable plants at the top of every hour during business hours. Children can complete a scavenger hunt and receive a free tree sapling. April 20-21. Free. Phelan Gardens, 4955 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 574-8058, phelangardens.com.

Earth Day Walk, a non-competitive walk with the Falcon Wanderers through Garden of the Gods. Sat., April 20, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, 3105 Gateway Road, 578-6777, falconwanderers.org.

Free Family Adventure Day, a hands-on creative exploration of all things green in honor of Earth Day. Suitable for all ages and skill levels. Sat., April 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bemis School of Art, 818 Pelham Place, 634-5583, csfineartscenter.org/bemisevents.asp.

Healing the Earth, an Earth Day celebration sponsored by the Woodland Park Harvest Center, featuring greenhouse tours, seed planting, nature hikes, post-fire recovery, solar energy demos and a discussion of hydrofracturing. Sun., April 21, 1-4 p.m. Aspen Valley Ranch, 1150 S. West St., Woodland Park, 748-5225.

Highway 115 Cleanup Project, an Earth Day cleanup project focusing on the section of State Highway 115 from the park entrance to Pine Oaks Road. All volunteers over age 10 welcome; reservations required. Sat., April 20, 8-11 a.m. Cheyenne Mountain State Park, 410 JL Ranch Heights, 576-2016, parks.state.co.us/parks/cheyennemountain.

Honeywell Earth Day Recycling Event, a recycling extravaganza with four local firms taking everything from construction materials to used clothing to anything with a power cord. Call for full list of items accepted. Fri., April 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Honeywell Technology, 1110 Bayfield Drive, 637-6700.

Koscove Metal, located at 431 W. Colorado Ave., seeks monetary and metal donations (to be recycled) to help rebuild the Waldo Canyon burn scar. Through April 22. 636-3559, koscovemetal.com.

North Cheyenne Cañon Park Clean-Up, a chance to celebrate Earth Day with an all-ages cleanup event, with activities provided for kids ages 6-11 and lunch for all participants. RSVP by April 18. Sat., April 20, 8:30 a.m. to noon. North Cheyenne Cañon Park, 2110 N. Cheyenne Cañon Road, 385-6086, cheyennecanon.org.

Tree Planting in Waldo Canyon Burn Scar, an event thanking donors to the Coalition for the Upper South Platte's fire restoration efforts, with an opportunity to learn hands-on about the details of the stabilization and rehabilitation process. Sat., April 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Flying W Ranch, 3330 Chuckwagon Road, 433-6775, jonathan@uppersouthplatte.org, flyingw.com.

Un-natural Trail Hike, a chance to learn about the biodegradation process while looking for items like orange peels, plastic bags and foam cups along the trail. Reservations required. Sat., April 20, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain State Park, 410 JL Ranch Heights, 576-2016, parks.state.co.us/parks/cheyennemountain.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival, an Earth Day fest with films following the topic of climate change; with live music, door prizes and giveaways. Mon., April 22, 6:45 p.m. Free. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradocollege.edu.

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Repertory, Ormao Junior Repertory, Ormao Youth Ensemble and Ormao Youth PREP. Sun., April 21, 6-8 p.m. Louisa Performing Arts Center, Colorado Springs School, 21 Broadmoor Ave., 475-9747, ormaodance.org.

Film

The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia, a look at the obstacle — and the gift — of dyslexia through the eyes of experts, children and one young man who didn't learn to read until 4th grade, yet went on to pursue a degree at a top college. Thurs., April 18, 6:30 p.m. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 227-0026, coloradoliteracynow.org.

Not Today, the story of a privileged American youth whose eyes are opened to the grim reality of human trafficking through his encounter with a young Untouchable girl in India. Through April 17, noon, 2:45, 5:35 and 8:25 p.m. $6.50. Tinseltown, 1545 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 800/326-3264 ext. 1106#, nottodaythemovie.com.

Third Thursday Mystery Movie, a free screening of this Oscar-winning musical set in 19th-century France about a ruthless policeman, a prisoner on the run, and an orphan named Cosette. Thurs., April 18, 6 p.m. Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., ifsoc.org.

Food&Drink

Austro-Hungarian Wine Dinner, a four-course dinner featuring Eastern European cuisine. Thurs., April 18, 7 p.m. $50. moZaic, 443 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-1800, innatpalmerdivide.com.

Discover Goodwill Annual Dinner, an awards celebration, fundraiser and dinner. RSVP by April 18 for the April 25, 6 p.m. event. $750. The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 634-7711, broadmoor.com.

"Need Knife Skills?," a class on buying, holding and using a knife. Tues., April 23, 6 p.m. $50. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

"The Role of Water in Beer," a lecture with Chris Wright, owner of Pikes Peak Brewing Co. The same lecture will be repeated at his brewery at 6 p.m. on April 24. Mon., April 22, 6 p.m. $15. Brewer's Republic, 112 N. Nevada Ave., 633-2105, brewersbroads@gmail.com, brewersrepublic.com.

Vino dei Fratelli Wine Dinner, a five-course dinner paired with five Vino dei Fratelli wines, with commentary by Staci Blair of Veraison Wines and Coaltrain staff. RSVP by April 20. Tues., April 23, 6-8 p.m. $49. Pizzeria Rustica, 2527 W. Colorado Ave., 475-9700, pizzeriarustica.com/eblast/index.php.

GetInvolved

All in 4 Aldridges 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run, a special event honoring the memory of local runner Dave Aldridge, with proceeds to benefit his wife and three young children. Sat., April 20, 9 a.m. Monument Valley Park, 220 Mesa Road, gofundme.com/allin4aldridges.

Discover Goodwill seeks professionals to volunteer with its Possibilities program, and share their skills with those with developmental disabilities and learning challenges. 785-9229, dgardner@discovermygoodwill.org.

Hair & Make-Up Competition, a benefit for the Gary Sinise Wounded Warriors Foundation, featuring a cosmetic fashion show styled by Paul Mitchell students. Early arrivals can watch the makeovers in progress and learn tricks of the trade. Fri., April 19, 5-8:30 p.m. $5. Paul Mitchell, The School, 118 W. Colorado Ave., 636-1426, school.paulmitchell.edu/colorado-springs-co.

TP in the Springs, a community drive to supply local outreach centers with much-needed donations of toilet paper. Call, e-mail or visit Facebook page for various drop-off locations. Through April 30. 633-6690, kathy.pete@comcast.net, facebook.com/pages/TP-in-The-Springs.

Volunteers Appreciation Celebration Barbecue, an event honoring the volunteers of the Wounded Warriors program at Ft. Carson, with live classic rock by Danny & the Fried Shrimp. Tues., April 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fort Carson, Highway 115, 526-1082, carson.army.mil.

Health&Healing

Celebrating a Growing Community, a networking event for holistic practitioners, open to the public, highlighting new alternative health services, books and products. Thurs., April 18, 5-8 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 277-6645, hnacolorado.com.

Choose Your Stress, a workshop that teaches how to choose the stressors that move you forward in life and eliminate the stressors that hold you back, developing inner calm. Sat., April 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. $25. Unity Church in the Rockies, 1945 Mesa Road, 238-5945, b.selene@yahoo.com, cospringshypnotherapy.com.

PICK ***Coppelia,*** a performance of the classic comic ballet by Colorado Youth Ballet and Ballet Society of Colorado Springs Pre-Professional Dancers, featuring a cast of 85 led by principal dancer Matthew Helms of Boulder Ballet. Saturday, April 20, 3 p.m. Mitchell High School, 1205 Potter Drive, 272-7078, coloradoyouthballet.com.

Free Head & Neck Cancer Screening, a chance to be tested by clinical staff. RSVP required. Wed., April 17, 4-6 p.m. Penrose Pavilion, 2312 N. Nevada Ave., 776-6918, penrosecancercenter.org.

Heart Support Group, a gathering of men, women and caregivers living with, helping with, or at risk for, heart disease. Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Penrose Hospital Main, 2222 N. Nevada Ave., 200-2645, penrosestfrances.org.

Self Help Group for Survivors of Sexual Assault, a safe place to express feelings and share paths to recovery. Sponsored by Finding Our Voices, an arts-based healing organization. Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain Library, 1785 S. Eighth St., #100, 633-6278, findingourvoicescs.com.

Southern Colorado 9Health Fair, a day of free or low-cost health screenings. Sat., April 20, 7 a.m. to noon. Manitou Springs City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, manitousprings-co.gov.

"A 'Wholistic' Approach to Digestive Tract Issues," a morning class on how to improve your GI health. RSVP by April 23 for the April 27, 9:30 a.m. event. $30. 219-9646, holistichealing4u.us.

Yoga for Cancer Wellness, a special yoga class designed for those: "recently diagnosed or currently undergoing treatment or recovering from any disease, chronic illness, pain, injury, or surgery, caregivers, and cancer survivors." Sundays, 1-2 p.m. cambio. Yoga, 3326 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 321-8547, cambioyoga.com.

Kids&Family

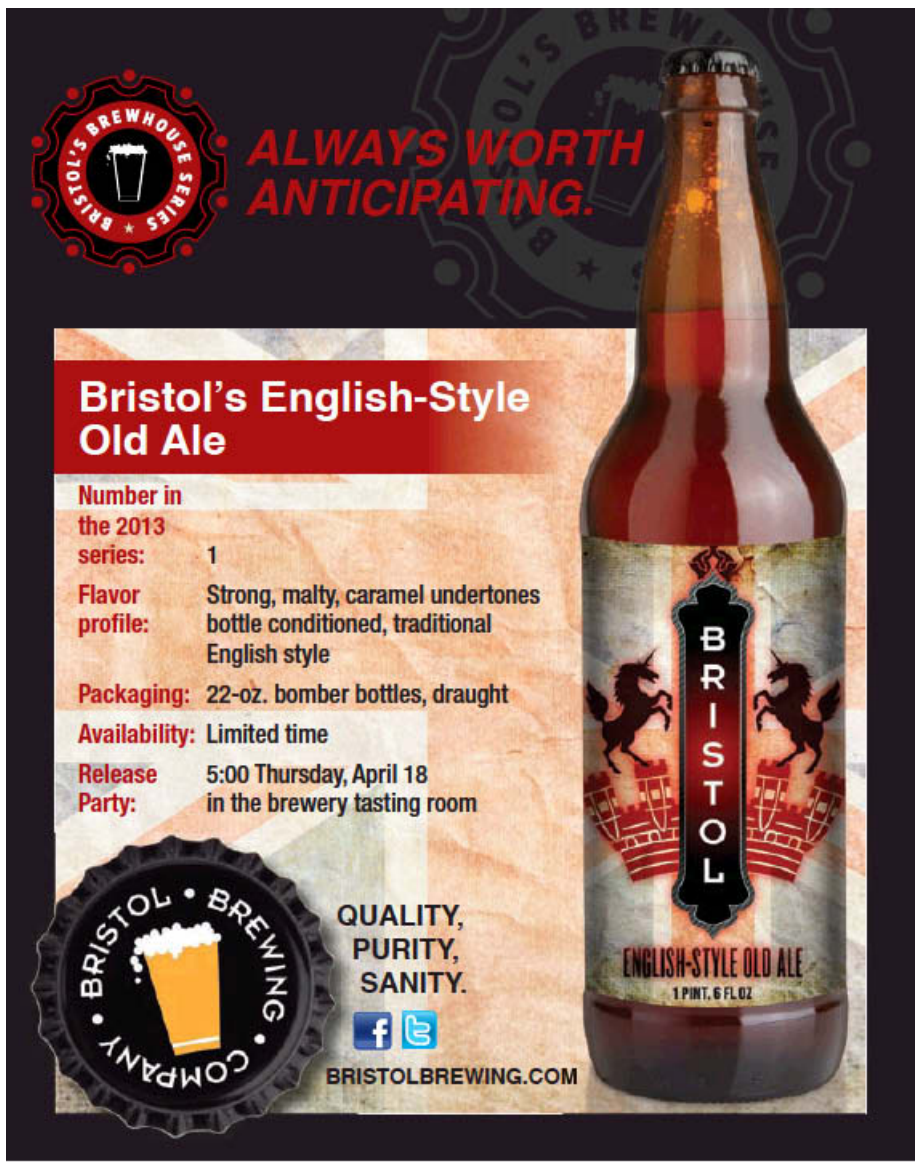
Bear Creek Nature Explorers — Who Lives in a Tree?, an educational morning with a craft, puppet show, hike and more. Reservations required. Thurs., April 18, 9 a.m. $4. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Children's Concert, a chance to dance and sing in celebration of National Park Week, with a free Junior Ranger Badge for all children who attend. Sat., April 20, 1 p.m. Woodland Park Public Library, 218 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 748 - 3253.

Disney on Ice: *Treasure Trove,* a string of seven performances featuring noted Disney characters. April 18-21. $13-$56. World Arena, 3185 Venetucci Blvd., 477-2121, worldarena.com.

MOPS Munchkin Market, a bi-annual consignment sale featuring toys, clothes, furniture and maternity items from 60-plus families. Sponsored by the Mothers of Preschoolers group; free childcare available for shoppers. Fri., April 19, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sat., April 20, 8-11 a.m. Fellowship Bible Church, 5580 N. Nevada Ave., 593-2433, fbcmops.wordpress.com.

A Positive Note, an eight-week music-making experience for individuals with disabilities, ages 12 through young adult. Early registration recommended. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon; through May 26. Colorado Springs Conservatory, 415 S. Sahwatch St., 577-4556, csconservatory.org.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$15 adults $10 students - Complimentary beverages, wine, beer & snacks
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9:30-11:30pm Jazz "Wrap" Party at The Mining Exchange - A Wyndham Grand Hotel Late night food and drink specials.
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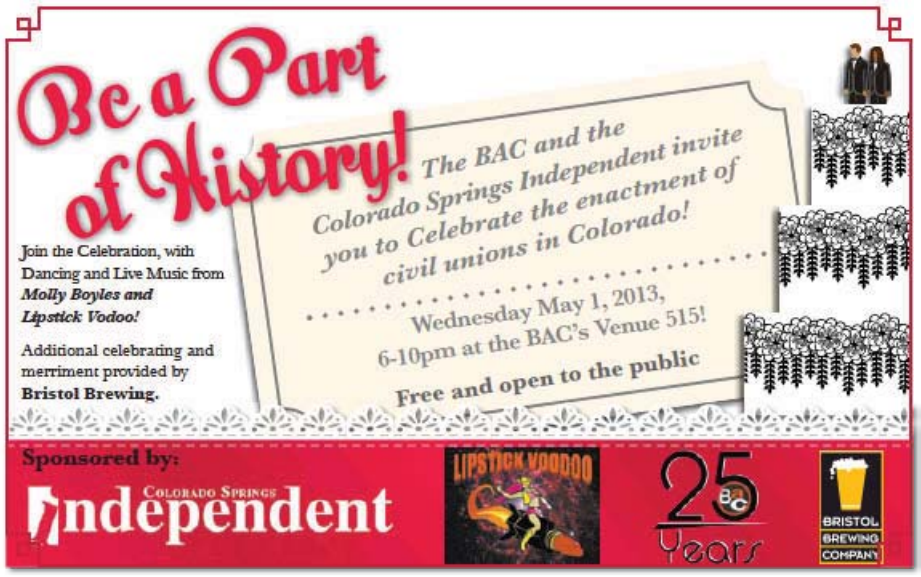
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Wednesday May 1, 2013, 6-10pm at the BAC's Venue 515!
Free and open to the public
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Preschool Nature Program, a hands-on learning opportunity for kids age 3-5, including storytime and a take-home craft. This month's topic is red foxes (April 19 & 26). Children must be accompanied by an adult and reservations are required. Fridays, 10 a.m.; through April 27. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com.

Lectures&Learning

PICK **Beyond Birds: The Rewards of Bug Watching,** a presentation by naturalist Eric Eaton, author of *The Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America*, on the growing popularity of "bug watching." Wed., April 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Colorado Division of Wildlife Office, 4255 Sinton Road, 596-2916, wildlife.state.co.us/Pages/Home.aspx.

Gardening Symposium, a variety of classes on topics like container gardening, perennials, planting under water restrictions and more. April 19-21. Summerland Gardens, 124 E. Cheyenne Road, 477-0267, summerlandgardens.com.

PICK **Green Horse Gallery,** 729 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-0636, greenhorsegallery.com. *Thoughts Multiply*, a solo show of new work by Liese Chavez, who recently joined the gallery. The artist's description of the show: "Let fantastic thoughts multiply like rabbits in your mind. Let's step out onto this ledge together and imagine we can fly. Take my hand, let's go ..." Opening reception, Friday, April 19, 5-8 p.m.

Lectures with Lyman Van Slyke, a series of lectures from the Stanford University professor. The first comes at 7 p.m. on April 18, entitled "The Thought of Mao Tse-tung: An Open and Shut Case." The second comes at 11 a.m. on April 19 and is called "So What's the Use of Chinese History?" $10-$20. Colorado State University-Pueblo, 2200 Bonforte Blvd., Pueblo, 719/549-2418, colostate-pueblo.edu.

PICK **"Mining for the Real Baby Doe,"** a lecture from Joyce B. Lohse, author of *Baby Doe Tabor: Matchless Silver Queen*. Thurs., April 18, 7 p.m. Free. Palmer Lake Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake, palmerdividehistory.org.

"Personal Safety," a free class from the Colorado Springs Police Department. Wed., April 17, 6 p.m. Gold Hill Mesa Police Substation, 955 W. Moreno St., 385-2117, tinyurl.com/c3gnda2.

"Resurrection: The Elwha River and the Past, Present, and Future of Restoration in the American West", a talk by Andrew Fahlund, who has studied rivers extensively over 15 years, including the removal of the two largest dams on the Elwha River in Washington. Mon., April 22, 6 p.m. Free. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu.

LiteraryEvents

Artist Showcase and Final Poetry Slam, a night of exhibitions, performances, music and the building of the Springs' first poetry slam team to compete on a national level. Wed., April 17, 5:30-10 p.m. $10-$15. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com.

Cheyenne Mountain Poetry Group, a group for those interested in, or currently writing, poetry. First and third Friday of every month, 2-3:30 p.m. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., 337-5130.

Covered Treasures Bookstore Book Signing, an evening with Monument author Shane Rice, who will be signing his first Dragon Legacy novel, *The Sin-*

ner. Thurs., April 18, 6:30-8 p.m. Covered Treasures Bookstore, 105 Second St., Monument, 481-2665.

John Schwartz, a reading and panel discussion based on the *New York Times* reporter's book *Oddly Normal*, a memoir of raising a gay son. Following that, Inside Out and PFLAG of Colorado Springs will moderate a talk. Tues., April 23, 5:30 p.m. Free. CC's Gates Common Room, 1025 N. Cascade Ave, coloradocollege.edu.

Kids Fun Day, an event featuring four children's authors: DJ Seddon, Austin Weaver, Kathleen Kennedy and Jesse Wilson. Plus live kids music and more. Sat., April 20, 2-5 p.m. Poor Richard's Bookstore, 320 N. Tejon St., 578-0012, poorrichardsdowntown.com.

Pikes Peak Writers Conference, a weekend for writers of all levels of success to share, network and promote. April 19-21. Marriott, 5580 Tech Center Drive, 260-1800, pikespeakwriters.com.

Rocky Mountain Haiku Group, a monthly meeting of Japanese culture enthusiasts. Attendees of this month's session are encouraged to prepare 10-15 minutes of discussion on an idea, object, question, or subject relating to haiku or other Asian arts. Sat., April 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Mediterranean Cafe, 118 E. Kiowa St., 540-2038, medcafe-co.com.

The Spice Rack, a spoken-word event. Third Wednesday of every month. Spice Island Grill, 10 N. Sierra Madre St., 473-8280, spiceislandgrill.com.

Storytelling Workshop, an interactive learning opportunity for aspiring public speakers with veteran Chicago actor Doug Stevenson, combining acting, comedy and storytelling techniques for more engaging and effective presentations. Sat., April 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m. $10-15. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

SpecialEvents

2013 Colorado Springs YoYo Championships, an age-specific competition from Team YoYoFactory. Sat., April 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Soda Springs Park, 1016 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, yoyofactory.com/tour.

Android: NetRunner Regional Tournament Qualifier, a chance for players of this Living Card Game to test their skills against the local competition, win prizes, and earn entry to the Fantasy Flight Games World Championship Weekend. Sat., April 20, 11 a.m. Petrie's Family Games, 3502 Hartsel Drive, 522-1099, petriesgames.com/lcg.

Incline Champions Breakfast, a breakfast fundraiser featuring trail-runner Chaz LaLonde. Wed., April 17, 7 a.m. $35. Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 576-8900, inclinefriends.com.

Just Between Friends Children's Consignment, an expo of gently used maternity wear, children's clothing, toys and other items. April 17-20. $2, Wednesday only. Freedom Financial Services Expo Center, 3650 N. Nevada Ave. jbfsale.com.

NAACP — The Summit on the State of Us, a panel discussion with special guests Colorado second lady Dr. Claire Oberon Garcia and Colorado State Senator Jessie Ulibarri. The discussion will address five topics: education, economic development, health, criminal justice and voting rights. Sat., April 20, noon. CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6607, tinyurl.com/cwmw6zl.

Native-American Health and Education Fair, an event for families looking to familiarize themselves with service and opportunities in the Pikes Peak region. Sat., April 20, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Palmer High School, 301 N. Nevada Ave., 520-2364, jackscm@d11.org, d11.org/palmer.

Neil deGrasse Tyson, a lecture from one of the world's leading astrophysicists. Wed., April 17, 7 p.m. $2-$7. UCCS' Gallogly Event Center, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., uccs.edu.

Pine Forest Antiques, Home Decor and Garden Show, a fundraiser from the Tri-Lakes Women's Club. April 20-21. $6. Lewis Palmer High School, 1300 Higby Road, Monument.

PPWFC Spring Job Fair, a chance to meet with employers like ResCare HomeCare, Xerox, Timberline Landscaping and more. Thurs., April 18, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 576-8900, ppwfc.org.

Rocky Mountain Calvary Craft Fair, a biannual event with over 75 vendors, a portion of whose proceeds go to local charities. Fri., April 19, 5-8 p.m. and Sat., April 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rocky Mountain Calvary, 4285 N. Academy Blvd., krysmcbee@gmail.com.

Spring Cleaning Workshop, a look at environmentally friendly cleaning products with representatives of El Paso County, Bestway Disposal and the Evans Army Community Hospital. Proceeds benefit the Catamount Institute. Fri., April 19, 2-4

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RED LINE CHEMISTRY, GIRL ON FIRE
Fri, Apr. 19th - 7:30pm
KALEB MIZE MEMORIAL BENEFIT
SLEEPSWITHBEARS
VITAL MALICE, NUK-L-HED, OMNYN
Sat, Apr. 20th - 7:00pm
VOODOO GLOW SKULLS
LEFT ALONE, HUSSY (FEAT. MEMBERS OF THE NOBODYS, DRAG THE RIVER, & BUCK O NINE), MURDER HAT
Mon, Apr. 22nd - 7:00pm
BROADWAY CALLS
TAKE IT TO 88, SLEEPING WEATHER
Thu, Apr. 25th - 7:00pm
TILL WE RISE
HERE LIES THE DIFFERENCE, RELOAD, ARLIA
Fri, Apr. 26th - 7:00pm
MALAKAI
VITAL MALICE, PAIN MACHINE, FISTLORD, OFL
Sat, Apr. 27th - 8:00pm
URBAN CIRCUS FEAT. THE JOHN STEWART AS DJ
D-STYLZ, GNOTESHGE, AUDIBLE, & MORE!
Sun, Apr. 28th - 7:00pm
FACE TO FACE
TEENAGE BOTTLEROCKET, BLACKLIST ROYALS
Mon, Apr. 29th - 7:00pm
CANCER BATS
OCTAVES, TOWER, CREEP STATUS
Tue, Apr. 30th - 7:00pm
CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!
FOR ALL THOSE SLEEPING, UPON THIS DAWNING, CITY LIGHTS
UPCOMING EVENTS
MAY 2 - LAST WORDS OF THE APOCALYPSE
MAY 3 - IAMDYNAMITE
MAY 4 - FLOBOTS
MAY 6 - MIDDLE CLASS RUT
MAY 10 - BUILT TO SPILL
MAY 11 - MAILBOX CONSPIRACY
MAY 13 - MUSHROOMHEAD
MAY 17 - BULLHEAD*DED
MAY 18 - THREE LEGGED FOX
MAY 21 - CAPITAL CITIES
MAY 24 - REHAB
MAY 25 - LOGIC
MAY 26 - TRAPT
MAY 27 - ESCAPE THE FATE
MAY 30 - BEWARE OF DARKNESS
MAY 31 - SCALE THE SUMMIT
JUN 1 - ATLAS GENIUS
JUN 8 - WILLY MOON
MAY 31 - ROCK FOR RECOVERY FEAT. SAVING ABEL
JUN 18 - AUTHORITY ZERO, BALLYHOO
JUL 24 - BEARTOOTH
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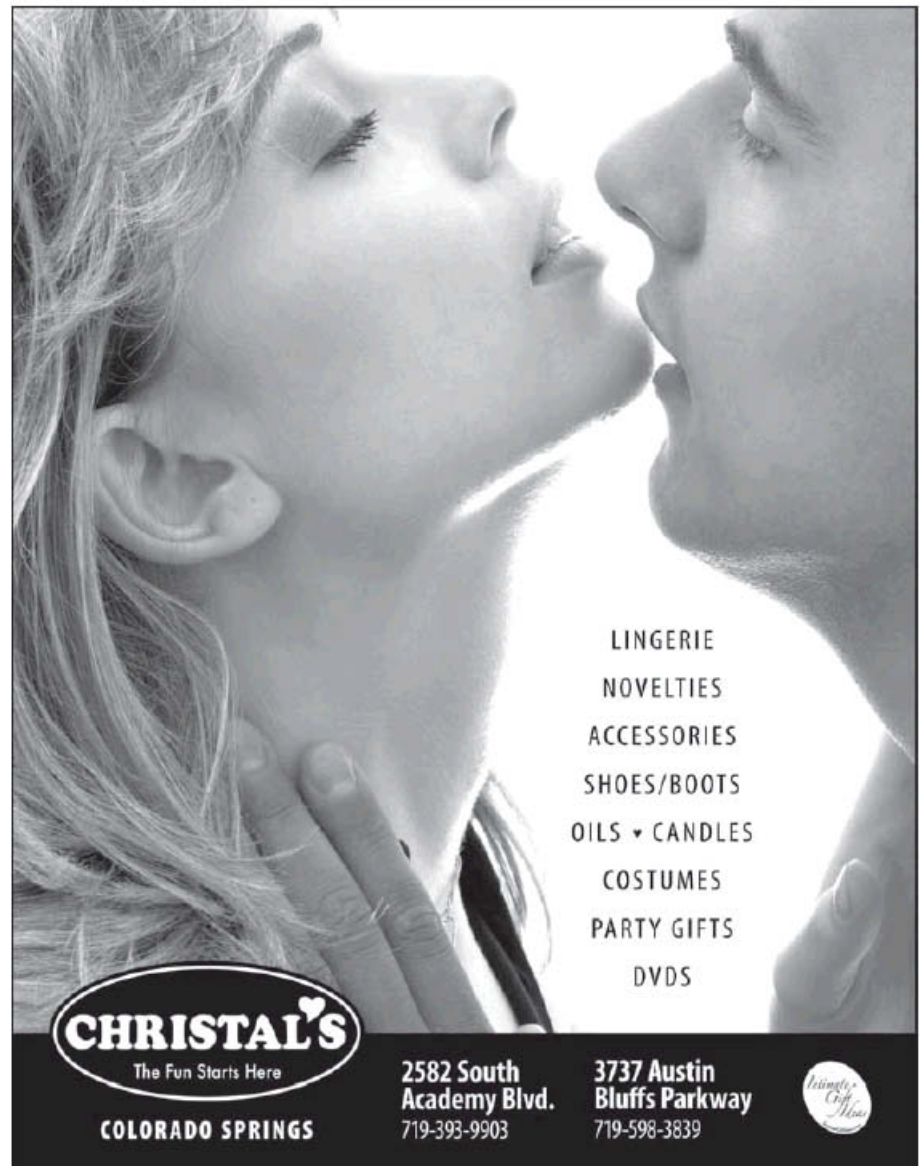

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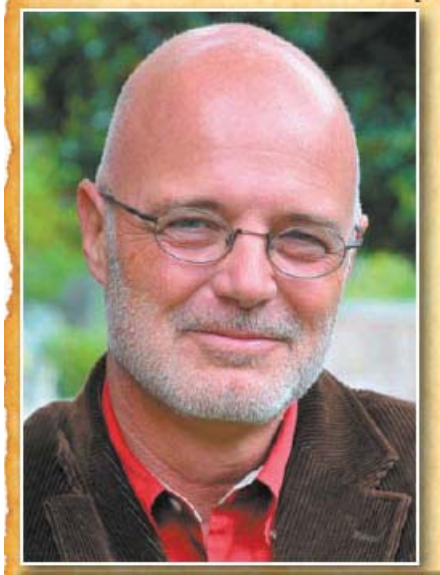

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author and a leader of the Emerging Church movement
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We're looking for freelance writers to work with our arts and entertainment team. Help us cover Colorado Springs culture on our **Seven Days to Live** pages and beyond. Previous journalism experience preferred. Please send a cover letter, résumé and three writing samples (preferably published) to edie@csindy.com.

or: CS Independent
235 S. Nevada Ave.,
Colorado Springs, CO,
80903
Attn: Edie Adelstein
or: fax 719/577-4107.
No phone calls, please.

p.m. $10. Colorado Springs Utilities Conservation and Environmental Center, 2855 Mesa Road, 471-0910 ext. 106, csu.org/wa/xeri/xeriscape.jsp.

Spirituality

Celebration Metaphysical Fair, an expo in its 35th year, featuring 100 exhibitors, readers and healers as well as workshops with authors Michelle Many and Donna DeNomme and celebrity handwriting expert Kathi McNight. April 19-21. $5. Colorado Springs City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa St., 482-3722, celebrationfair.com.

"Classes in Sacred Sciences," a miniseries "on the basic Universal Laws that govern the mind-body system." Saturdays; through May 11. $35-$55. Center for Spiritual Living, 3685 Jeannine Drive, 303/726-9344, creativetransformations.biz.

Sports&Recreation

Community Outdoor Gear Garage Sale, a spring-cleaning sale of used skis, snowboards, snowshoes, cross country gear, winter apparel, bikes, camping, backpacking, kayak gear, fly fishing gear and summer apparel. Bring gear to sell and keep 100 percent of the proceeds, or just come to shop. $20 table reservation fee for sellers. Sat., April 20, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mountain Equipment Recyclers, 1024 S. Tejon St., 210-6427, merecyclers.com.

Protect the Children 5K Run/Walk, a fundraiser from Court Care. Sat., April 20. $25. University Village Colorado, 5230 N. Nevada Ave., 696-5926, courtcare.org.

Stage

Fiddler on the Roof, a performance of the Tony Award-winning musical from the Forestgate Community Theatre. Through April 27. $6-$10. Forestgate Presbyterian Church, 970 N. Gate Blvd., 495-5672, forestgate.org.

In the Heights, an all-student production of Lin-Manuel Miranda's 2008 Tony-award winning musical about a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood. Fridays, Saturdays, 7 p.m.; through April 20. $6-9. Rampart High School, 8250 Lexington Drive, 234-2086, showtix4u.com.

Rough Writers: A New Play Fest, a two-week long festival featuring readings of submitted scripts related to the museum's multi-disciplinary exhibits. April 18-28. $15. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org.

Six Women Play Festival, an annual festival of 10-minute plays by female authors in its seventh year. This year's theme is "Planes, Trains & Automobiles: The Comings and Goings of Life." Thursdays-Sundays; through April 28. $15-20. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, sixwomenplayfestival.com.

Swan Lake, a contemporary, multimedia take on the classic ballet. April 19-20. $10. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, a performance of the classic by the Academy of Children's Theatre. April 18-20. $10. Rock Family Church, 4005 Lee Vance View, 282-9101, aoct.net.

VolunteerOpportunities

Colorado Springs Police Department seeks volunteers to join its June "ambassador" program, where teams of two assist downtown and Old Colorado City guests. 444-7735, springscaps.org.

Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers to assist patients and families as companion volunteers. Training provided; the next session will be held April 27. Call 265-1109 to sign up.

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice seeks volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing your talents as a musician, artist, pet therapist or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training, call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

Rocky Mountain Field Institute seeks volunteers age 16-plus for several trail restoration projects around the Pikes Peak Region, including Waldo Canyon workdays and more. 471-7736, rmfi.org.

MORE
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How to Submit a Listing

Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

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StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

After someone threw rocks with threatening messages and misspelled words through the window of Judge Frank T. Carpenter, investigators in Hudson County, N.J., named Dennis Sabol, 47, as their suspect. Carpenter explained that when he dismissed Sabol's complaint against two men Sabol said assaulted him, "Sabol became incensed to the point he screamed at the top of his lungs, 'F you!'" The judge and court officials confirmed their suspicion by comparing the handwriting on the rocks and paperwork Sabol had previously filled out. When police had Sabol, who happened to be at the courthouse paying a fine, write some of the words appearing on the rocks, he misspelled the same words the same way. (*The Jersey Journal*)

An Alberta man who punched a Calgary Transit peace officer in the face while she was writing him a ticket fled on foot but was quickly identified. "He left his ID behind, luckily for us," said duty inspector Steve Ellefson, describing the suspect only as bald, about 30 years old and with a lengthy rap sheet. (*The Calgary Herald*)

Problem solved

Gordon Wozniak, a city councilor in Berkeley, Calif., proposed funding the United States Postal Service with a tax on e-mail. "There should be something like a bit tax," he said while city officials tried to halt the sale of a Post Office building due to a decline in business. "I mean a bit tax could be a cent per gigabit, and they would still make, probably, billions of dollars a year." (San Francisco's KCBS-TV)

Police in Cheverly, Md., said they hoped a catchy slogan would help curb thefts from cars: "If You Don't Conceal It, Thieves Will Steal It." The advisory follows an earlier slogan, adopted for a campaign to curb burglary: "Cheverly is a L.E.W.D. town because we Lock Every Window and Door." (*The Washington Post*)

Drone on

Where Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, fears a domestic drone proliferation threatens American civilization, a Portland, Ore., startup company spies a business opportunity. Domestic Drone Countermeasures announced it will commercialize military technology, "using American-made components when available," to counter unmanned aircraft in domestic airspace. A company press release promised countermeasures "are non-offensive, non-combative and not destructive. Drones will not fall from the sky, but they will be unable to complete their missions." Poe predicted that the Federal Aviation Administration's plans to allow commercial drones in domestic airspace means that 30,000 unmanned aircraft would be flying by 2030. (Domestic Drone Countermeasures LLC)

A hobbyist identifying himself as "Milo Danger" posted a YouTube video of a drone with mounted paintball pistols armed with "non-lethal," 11 mm paintballs peppering human-shaped targets from overhead. Milo bought the drone and paintball gun online and downloaded piloting software, claiming the entire project took no more than a dozen hours and cost less than $2,000. "I wanted to show an inevitability of what I think will happen with these drones," Milo said. (*The Washington Times*)

Finding my religion

During the trial of Robert Mackey, 44, one of two men charged with beating a 41-year-old woman to death and then using their tree-trimming tools to lop off her head, former roommates of the suspects testified they overheard Mackey and Paul Trucchio confess to the crime and discuss how to get away with it. One plan was to make the victim's head, the only part of her that investigators found, vanish by praying to a small concrete alligator. "They used to pray to an alligator and rub its head, like a nutjob," witness Louis Caroleo told a jury in Broward County, Fla. "They said it was the alligator god. They hoped the alligator would eat the evidence." (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*)

Police were called to a Motor Vehicle Commission office in South Brunswick, N.J., after Aaron Williams, 25, refused to remove a pasta strainer on his head for his driver's license photo. A police report said Williams announced he was a Pastafarian, a follower of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, and that "his pasta strainer was a religious head covering," which was his right to wear. "Had it been a turban or a head scarf, or something from a mainstream religion," Williams said after eventually removing the strainer for his picture, "then it would've been fine." (In 2011, Austrian Pastafarian Niko Alm was finally allowed to wear a strainer for his driver's license photo after trying unsuccessfully for three years.) (The Huffington Post)

Short fuses

While visiting neighbor Nathan Hess, 30, in Marston Mills, Mass., Dwayne Peters, 31, brought up some racial "stuff," prompting an argument, Barnstable police Detective Valerie Hemmila said. Hess got his bow and shot an arrow that shattered windows in Peters' truck. Peters retaliated by getting a shotgun from his home, where he lives with his parents, and shooting out the windshield and back window of Hess' car. (*Cape Cod Times*)

When city attorney Mike Gridley got in his face and called him a "moron" during a debate in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Councilman Steve Adams called 911 and asked "to have an officer respond." Adams also filed an ethics complaint against Gridley with the Idaho State Bar. When he then reported Gridley's action to Mayor Sandy Bloem, he said she "raised her fist (at me) and said she had half a mind to punch my nose off my face." At that point, Adams admitted the 911 call might have been excessive. (Boise's KTVB-TV)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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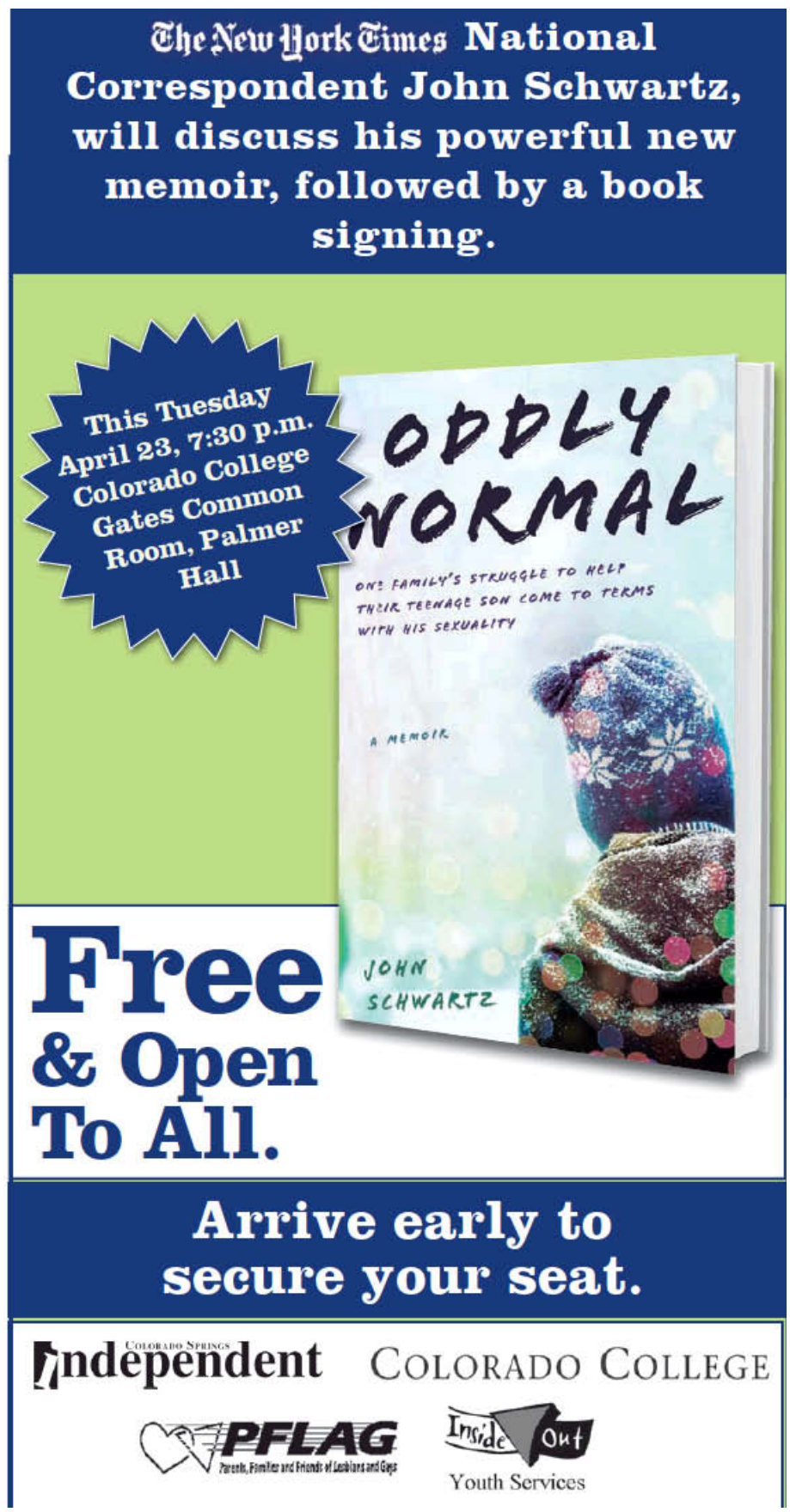
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CannaBiz

Medical marijuana news of the week

Four-score and 20 ...

Sometimes good things just emerge from the sky, and that's how you might look at **April 20** falling on a Saturday this year, because there's a ton to do if you're in a leafy state of mind. As usual, Denver will host the crème de la crème of public-smoking opportunities, in Civic Center Park, but here are some events with a little less public-protest to them:

• Studio A64 (332 E. Colorado Ave., studioa64.com) is hosting an all-day 420 Liberty Festival. At different times, you'll find free barbecue, free chips and salsa from neighboring El Taco Rey, dance lessons and live music. Tickets start at $5.

• The Colorado Springs 4/20 EXtraDabaganza at Club 710 (1677 Jet Wing Drive, 380-0710) promises a day of hash-focused celebration featuring live entertainment, giveaways, caricature drawings and more. Tickets also start at $5.

• Speak Easy Vape Lounge (2508 E. Bijou St., speakeasylounge.info) will celebrate the day with DJ Chris Diablo and blues musician Jerome Freeman. Tickets are $10 for the first person, and $4.20 each for additional guests.

• Jesse Cotton Stone, and the band Melting Temple will play the Ancient Mariner (962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs) in celebration of, as its Facebook event page reads, "THE 1ST LEGAL 420 IN AMERICAN HISTORY!!!"

• Held in the U.S. for the first time, the High Times Cannabis Cup will run from Friday, April 19, through Sunday at the EXDO Event Center (1399 35th St., Denver, cannabiscup.com). Performances from Snoop Lion, Cypress Hill and others are expected. The event's website says the Cup's sold out, but that the magazine's working on freeing up more tickets.

Check the list

Last week, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported it had uncovered court records showing that in November, the **Oregon Medical Marijuana Program** was forced to give records on specific citizens to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

"I know that in order to effectively pursue this investigation, I need to investigate each of the patients, growers and caregivers associated with" the requested names, the paper quoted special agent Michael Gutensohn as writing in his warrant request. "I have probable cause to believe that records from the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program will contain evidence and instrumentalities of marijuana manufacturing and trafficking and conspiracy to commit marijuana manufacturing and trafficking offenses."

Last Wednesday, California's *East Bay Express* reported that infamous U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag made a similar request of that state, though it was later narrowed to not include any personal identifying information.

— Bryce Crawford

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Wong, Ming (1976). La Médecine chinoise par les plantes. Paris: Tchou.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_cannabis

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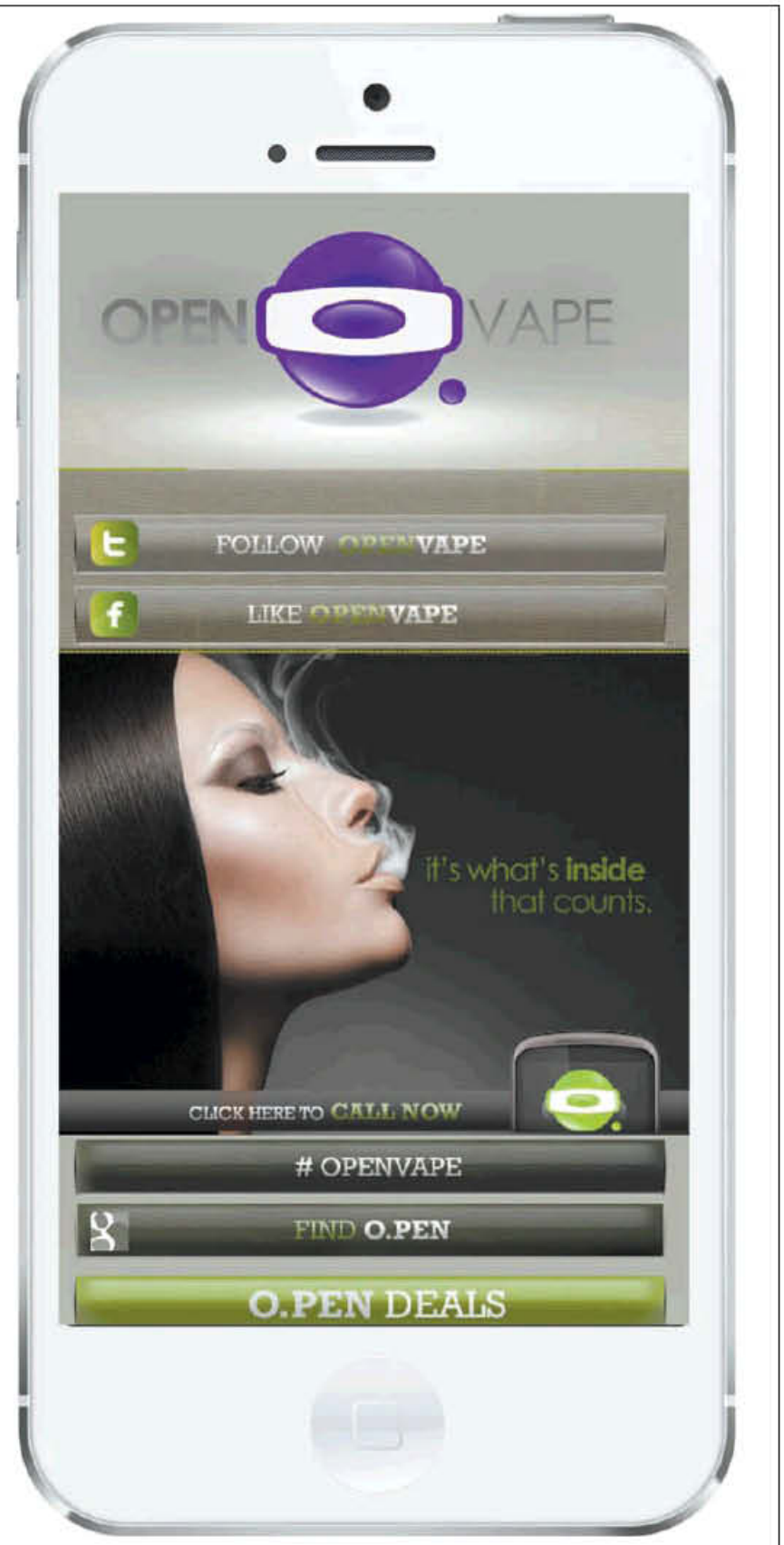

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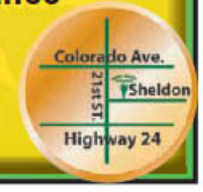

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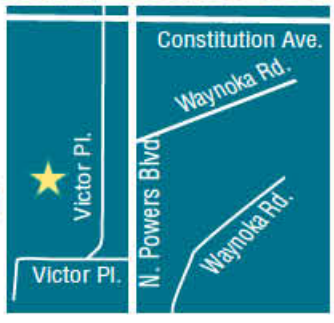

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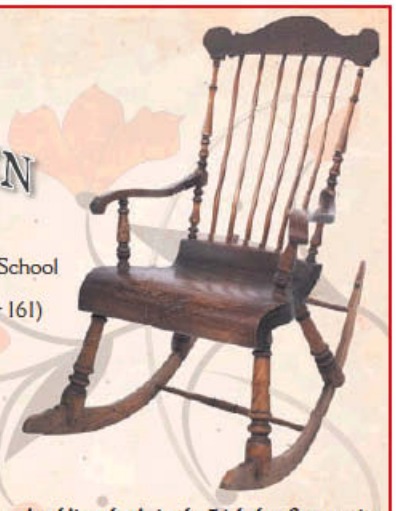

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AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

Will you flash mob me?

I'm going to propose to my girlfriend, and it seems there's this trend of doing crazy, elaborate things to ask a girl to marry you. I know I can't compete with the guys like the New York City dude I just read about who threw down $45,000 to pop the question. But even if friends help me out for free, I don't know whether I can make my proposal cool enough to go viral like the Portland guy who had his choreographed and filmed. — Don't Want to Disappoint

"Will you marry me?" is a pretty powerful question. Asking this of a woman who loves you can provoke tears, and not because you didn't hire Beyonce to sing "Put a Ring On It" and spend a year training a humpback whale to swim by at exactly the right moment and shoot the ring out its blowhole.

Regarding the proposals you mention, the New York guy is 27-year-old online marketing company honcho Josh Ogle. He wrote on reddit.com that he actually spent around $13K on a lavish proposal evening, starting with his popping the question to Nataliya Lavryshyn on a Manhattan hotel rooftop, decorated for the event with pages of Pablo Neruda's poetry. This price included $3,500 for a professional "proposal planner" and a $1,500 post-proposal private dinner cooked by a celebrity chef. (Media outlets came up with the $45K proposal cost by adding in the $21K custom-made ring and the $10K post-engagement European "honeymoon.") As easy as it is to mock the guy for outsourcing his proposal, Ogle is reportedly a self-made multimillionaire (apparently, after growing up poor while his dad was in prison), so for him, $45K probably spends like $45 does for the rest of us.

Conspicuous romancing can act as a stand-in proving ground.

The Portland guy, actor and theatrical director Isaac Lamb, pulled together 60-plus friends and family members in an elaborate (and wildly adorable) lip-synched song-and-dance routine to Bruno Mars' "Marry You." His girlfriend, choreographer Amy Frankel, listened to the song on headphones from the tailgate of a Honda CRV pulling her slowly down the street while everyone danced in formation behind it. Lamb then got down on one knee and said to Frankel, "You have already given me a lifetime of happiness. Will you let me spend the rest of my life trying to give you the same?" (Not surprisingly, she said yes.)

Although the trend toward extreme proposing is surely the lovechild of reality TV and social media, it has something in common with the mythic quest — an epic mission a man would go on to prove his love and worth to a woman. Of course, these days, the most dangerous journey a man can usually take for a woman is a trip to 7-Eleven on bald tires. So, conspicuous romancing can act as a stand-in proving ground — an extravagant display that a man's "all-in" and somebody the woman can count on ... to keep life exciting and to call a singing, dancing, plumbing flash mob whenever the garbage disposal's broken.

That said, you're asking a woman to grow old with you, not auditioning for *America's Got Proposal Talent*. If you are "all in," you probably show your girlfriend that in a lot of little ways every day. Keep in mind that Ogle's and Lamb's proposals reflected who they are and will likely continue to be — a really rich guy and an artsy, creative guy, respectively. Your proposal likewise needs to reflect who you are and tell your girlfriend that you get who she is — starting with whether she's someone who'd be horrified to have an intimate moment like a marriage proposal take place on the Jumbotron.

The truth is, there's no need for Jumbotrons or trying to hire away the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse from some Bar Mitzvah gig they picked up. Even if every one of Lamb's dancers stayed home in bed, his proposal would have been extremely moving simply because of the words he spoke. Put your effort into telling your girlfriend why you always want to be there to hold her hand, even when it gets all wrinkly. Couple that with an essential element from the elaborate proposers — delighting a woman with the element of surprise. You can do this by planning your proposal around something your girlfriend once said (and will be amazed you remembered) or just by serving her toast a slightly different way: with a heart cut in the middle with the ring inside it. This sort of proposal sends a message — "I love you and want to spend the rest of my life with you" (not to be confused with "Bet I can get more YouTube hits than that big dog teaching the puppy to go down the stairs!").

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle to Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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6	4	8				2		5
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		5			6			
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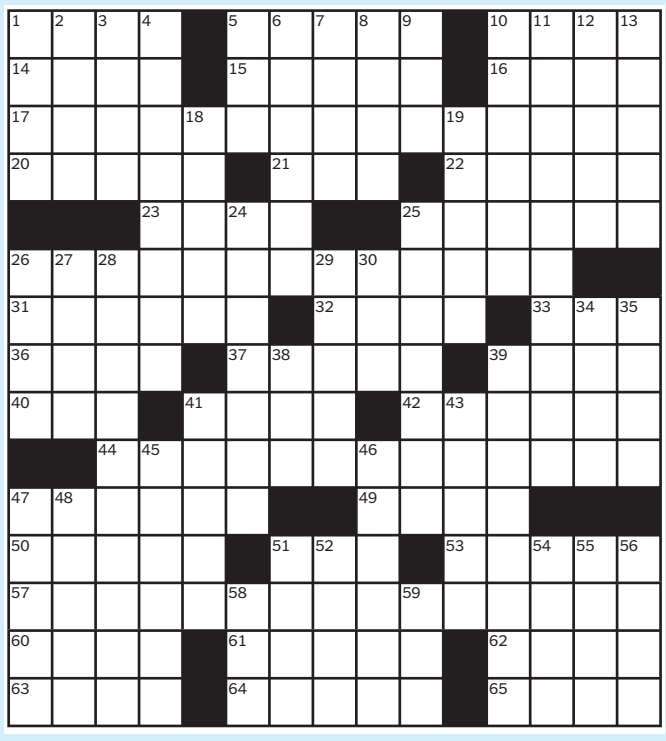
				3	4			

Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 60



The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 Like the "i" in "like"
5 De ___ (in practice)
10 Read digitally
14 Not quite closed
15 Home near the Arctic Circle
16 ___ stick
17 Lady paid for one insect?
20 One of the Baldwins?
21 Old touring car
22 Charge to appear in a magazine
23 ___ Minor
25 Groups of limos, e.g.
26 Rodent that lets air out of balloons?
31 Gene arising through mutation
32 Written promises
33 Kitten sound
36 Diagonal
37 Enticed
39 Demanding sort
40 Slump
41 Land O'Lakes product
42 Sweet 'un
44 Spanish rum cake?
47 Help with a cover story, say
49 Comics beagle
50 Site of some Chicago touchdowns
51 Hoedown partner
53 BMI rival
57 Headline after one of Becker's Wimbledon wins?
60 Grp. created at the Baghdad Conference, 1960
61 Copier need
62 Abscond
63 Blood fluids
64 Each of this puzzle's long Across answers sounds like one
65 Zipped (by)

DOWN

1 Word after flood or floor
2 City east of Santa Barbara
3 Zip
4 Bits of sugar
5 Taradiddle
6 Ancient markets
7 Miss Scarlet's game
8 Pizza parlor option
9 "That's gotta hurt"
10 Popular card game
11 Grinder of a sort
12 Shoelace tip
13 Poet best known for "The Highwayman"
18 Tale's end, sometimes
19 Anklebone
24 Really, really good
25 Like St. Augustine, in 1565
26 Light touches
27 Kazan of Hollywood
28 Certain marcher in a parade
29 Finished with
30 Stock answer?
34 The dark side
35 Grow dim
38 Job listing inits.
39 Sits by a fire after a drenching, say
41 Heckelphone cousins
43 Ornithology-related
45 "Out of ___"
46 Unite, in a way
47 Rock group Los ___
48 "My fingers are crossed"
51 Gunk
52 The best
54 Choose the best of
55 Critic James
56 "What a relief!"
58 Powerful old Pontiac
59 Tide competitor

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 60

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FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The writer Oliver Burkeman has some advice that would be helpful for you Aries folks to hear right now: "When you assume your current preferences won't alter, you'll make bad decisions: embarking on a career or marriage, say, not with a view to its durability, but solely based on how it makes you feel now." I am most definitely not predicting that you are about to make the kind of bad decision Burkeman refers to. I'm sure my warning here in this horoscope will derail any temptation you might have to make short-sighted moves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I'm happy to report that help from the invisible world is available to you right now. Of course you won't be able to use it, let alone tune in to it, if you don't believe there is any such thing as help from the invisible world. So if you are the type of person who is very sure that reality consists of nothing more than what your senses reveal, I suggest that you temporarily suspend that belief. And if you are someone who has had direct experiences with blessings that come from the unseen realm, be aware that the imminent delivery is quite different from those you have known in the past.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In her book *A Monster's Notes*, Laurie Sheck describes the nuances of the term "ghost" in the German language. A mediocre wine may be called unghostly, she says. A witty, lively person is "rich in ghostliness," whereas a dull, blank type "has no ghost in him." In this spirit, Gemini, I suspect you will have some pretty fine ghostliness working for you in the coming weeks. And there's a good chance that part of your extra-special mojo will arise from your creative engagement with energies that resemble the more traditional definition of "ghost."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A one-minute video commercial for the Cosmopolitan luxury resort in Las Vegas shows an elegant woman at a sumptuous feast. She's eagerly holding her dinner plate up to her face so she can lick it clean of its last delicious taste. The scene shifts to a well-dressed man who's down on all fours serving as a chair for a chic woman. She applies her make-up while gazing into the shiny mirror-like surface of a high-heeled shoe. New scene: An 80-year-old woman pats the butt of a handsome young stud with whom she's slow-dancing. At the end of the ad, a catchphrase appears: "Just the right amount of wrong." I say, let that be your mantra in the coming week, Cancerian.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Albert Einstein published his General Theory of Relativity in 1916. It had radical implications for the field of theoretical physics, but remained an unproven concept until 1919. Then a British physicist verified its accuracy with evidence gathered during a solar eclipse. The *Times* newspaper in London announced the event with the headline "Revolution in Science: New Theory of the Universe, Newtonian Theories Overthrown." Not wanting to be left behind, the *New York Times* assigned one of its own journalists to cover the revolution. Unfortunately, the person they sent was a sports reporter whose specialty was golf. His article was less than illuminating. The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned, Leo: When big developments are underway, show up at full strength, with all your powers engaged.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Never to get lost is not to live," writes Rebecca Solnit in her book *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*. In fact, she says that not knowing how to get lost is unhealthy. These are useful ideas to consider right now, Virgo. It will probably do you good to get at least semi-lost. As you wander around without a map or compass, I bet you will stumble upon important teachings. At the same time, I hope you will put some thought into how you're going to get lost. Don't just leave it to chance. Make sure there's a method in your madness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the English language, "low man on the totem pole" is an idiom that refers to a person who has the worst job or the least status. He or she is considered to be at the low end of the hierarchy. But it's an incorrect metaphor. The creators of the original totem poles were indigenous Native American tribes of the Pacific Northwest, and for them the figure at the bottom of the pole was the most important one. I foresee the possibility of a similar situation arising in your sphere, Libra. Be alert for a misapprehension that needs to be righted. It may be the case that what's last should actually be first. Something that has been beneath or behind "more important" matters should perhaps get higher priority.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In his book *Karmic Traces*, Eliot Weinberger describes the life story of naked mole rats. They're animals that never leave their underground tunnels. Normally you Scorpios have nothing in common with them. But in the coming days, I'm hoping there will be one resemblance. According to Weinberger, the naked mole rats "change direction by somersaulting." Metaphorically speaking, I think this would be an excellent strategy for you. There's no need to mope cautiously as you alter your course. No need to be lackadaisical and fitful and full of doubts. Just spring into action with a cheery bounce, and move on with a renewed sense of purpose.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The famous philosopher John Searle unleashed a witty dig about the famous philosopher Jacques Derrida, saying he is "the sort of philosopher who gives bullshit a bad name." One of your fun assignments in the coming week, Sagittarius, is to do the opposite of what Derrida's work does. In other words, give bullshit a *good* name. How? Well, you could engage in creative verbal expressions that boost morale and propagate delight and lubricate worthwhile connections. Make up noble fictions that are more accurate and useful than the literal truth. Spread uplifting gossip that heals and invigorates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "The ideal piano player is the one who wants to be the piano," says a character in Thomas Bernhard's novel *The Loser*. He continues: "I say to myself every day when I wake up, I want to be the Steinway, I want to be the Steinway itself." Your assignment, Capricorn, is to apply this attitude to your own personal situation. In other words, merge with the tool you want to master. Immerse yourself in the skill you're working to perfect — disappear into it. In your imagination, become completely united with the thing or person or experience you desire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "The trouble with our age is that it is all signpost and no destination," said writer Louis Kronenberger. I'm concerned that you may have fallen under the sway of this kind of myopia, Aquarius. A steady stream of useful tips and clues has been appearing, but you're missing some of them. Your long-range goals aren't sufficiently clear, so you don't always recognize the significance of new revelations. Here's the cure: In your imagination, create a vivid picture of your next big destination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A group of bicyclists in Southern California challenged a blogger to a race. They said they could cover the 38.4 miles from North Hollywood to Long Beach faster on their bikes than the blogger could get there by plane. As it turned out, they were right. Their trip took an hour and 34 minutes. As for the blogger, he had to drive to the airport, wait for the plane to depart, fly to a different airport, then catch a cab to the designated destination. He arrived about an hour after the cyclists. Can you guess which of those two modes of travel is the preferred metaphor for you this week, Pisces? The earthy, simple, stripped-down approach will get you where you need to go better than the big, elaborate, expensive method.

HOMEWORK: It's easy to see fanaticism, rigidity and intolerance in other people, but harder to acknowledge them in yourself. Do you dare? Testify at freewillastrology.com.

Go to **RealAstrology.com** to check out Rob Brezsny's **EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES** and **DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES**. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at **1-877-873-4888** or 1-900-950-7700.

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9	1	7	5	2	8	6	3	4
6	4	8	9	1	3	2	7	5
5	3	2	4	6	7	1	9	8
7	2	4	1	9	5	8	6	3
3	6	9	7	8	2	5	4	1
1	8	5	3	4	6	7	2	9
4	7	6	8	5	9	3	1	2
8	9	3	2	7	1	4	5	6
2	5	1	6	3	4	9	8	7

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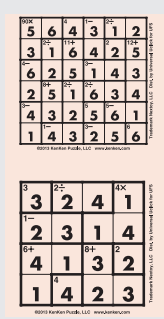

Crossword

L	O	N	G		F	A	C	T	O		S	C	A	N
A	J	A	R		I	G	L	O	O		P	O	G	O
M	A	D	A	M	B	O	U	G	H	T	A	F	L	Y
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B	I	A	S		L	E	D	O	N		D	I	V	A
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B	O	R	I	S	G	O	O	D	E	N	O	U	G	H
O	P	E	C		T	O	N	E	R		F	L	E	E
S	E	R	A		O	P	E	R	A		F	L	E	W

CHESS QUIZ

No room for the Chess Quiz this week.

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A must see!
Updated townhome with large kitchen with an island, plenty of cubboard space. Washer, dryer in utility room! 3 Bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car garage. $1295/1195. 847 Weber Ridge Pt. Call Haley Realty to see 634-3785

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Beautiful modern townhome with a large living room with plenty of natural lighting. Enjoy the cozy patio on sunny days and beautiful nights! 2 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath, 2 Car Garage. Rent $1195/1095, Pet Deposit $250. 832 N Wahsatch Ave. Call Haley Realty to see 634-3785

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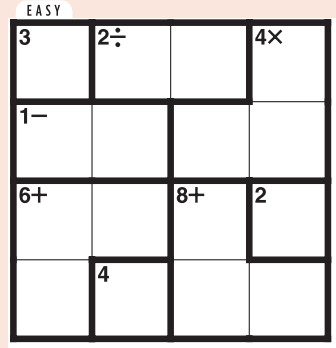
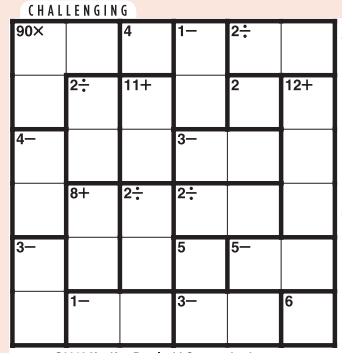


CHALLENGING



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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 60

RULES

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
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EndZone

By Ralph Routon

New class heads for Hall

Greatness in sports can come in different forms, compressed into a singular moment and/or spread across time. So it is now with the 2013 class of new members for the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame, unveiled this week for induction at the annual banquet on Oct. 29.

The six individuals clearly stand out for their achievements over time: **Matt Carpenter**, such a dominant presence in the Pikes Peak Marathon; **Nick Sanborn**, who influenced the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb as a five-time winner in the stock-car division before later guiding the race's operations; **Dick Westbay**, who coached Wasson High School to years of football success and a state title; **Jeff Sauer**, former Colorado College hockey player and head coach en route to a sterling career; **Bonnie Blair**, the U.S. speedskating superstar who ruled at the 1988, 1992 and 1994 Winter Olympics; and **Luis Medina**, a remarkable hitter and role model playing for the Colorado Springs Sky Sox (1988-91) after their local rebirth.

The Hall of Fame's team inductee, Rampart High School's boys basketball state champions of 1987, distinguished themselves by winning the Class 3A title with a perfect 24-0 record, coached by **Rick Starzecki** and led by **Kevin Belt**, **Dave Tomlinson**, **Mike Nelson**, **Tim Cameron** and **Mike Schroath**.

Besides their lengthy credentials, the individuals had their own extraordinary moments. For instance, Carpenter twice has pulled off the amazing double of winning the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon on consecutive days. Westbay, an outstanding athlete at Colorado Springs High School, later coached many superior teams at Wasson, in particular the 1971 state champions (previously inducted). Blair, who calls Colorado Springs her adopted home after so many training camps (and with a few relatives) here, won the 500-meter Olympic gold in three of her four Winter Games.

I'd like to single out Sauer here. His coaching career eventually led him to Wisconsin, where he took the Badgers to NCAA championships in 1983 and 1990, and he remains involved today with various USA Hockey programs. But perhaps his best coaching job came in 1978.

After a subpar regular season, he took Colorado College into the Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs with a losing record. But the Tigers had a good mixture of veterans and younger players, including **Dave Delich** (an earlier inductee into the Springs Hall of Fame), **Greg Whyte**, **Dave Feamster**, **Dean Magee**, **Jim Warner**, **Tom Frame**, **Paul Mitchell** and a backup goaltender named **Scott Owens**, the CC head coach today.

For the first round, the Tigers had to travel to Minnesota, coached by the legendary **Herb Brooks** and with several players who later would join Brooks to create the Miracle on Ice at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. But the "miracle" in 1978 belonged to the Tigers. After a 3-3 tie the first night, CC stunned the Gophers 5-4 to prevail in total goals, 8-7.

That meant the Tigers then had to visit arch-rival University of Denver for a two-game series against a powerhouse DU team, considered by many as the nation's best that season. It was a deafening atmosphere inside the musty old DU arena, with Queen's "We Are the Champions" (it was new then) blaring and fans screaming.

CC entered that series as a decided underdog, but shocked the Pioneers in the opener, 6-3. Denver actually won the finale, 4-3, but that wasn't enough to overcome the total-goals deficit.

If you check WCHA records since 1960, that year is the only time when Colorado College won or shared the WCHA postseason title. (The WCHA's Final Five tournament replaced the old series format in the mid-1980s.) Wisconsin and CC, recognized as co-champions for the 1978 playoffs, didn't meet again as both advanced to the six-team NCAA tourney, but lost in the next round.

That historical note takes on added meaning now, with Colorado College leaving the WCHA with others to start the National Collegiate Hockey Conference. Meanwhile, Minnesota and Wisconsin will join the Big Ten's hockey league.

But Jeff Sauer stands among the WCHA's most influential figures of the past half-century, which makes him a fitting choice now as part of this Hall of Fame class.

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SPORTS SHOT

Strange schedule Air Force football plays two Thursday and two Friday night games in 2013, including a trip to Boise State on Friday, Sept. 13, that likely will have national TV appeal.

Off year If you saw any of NCAA hockey's Frozen Four, capped by Yale whipping Quinnipiac for the title, you had to figure this was a down year for college hockey.

Just a thought Don't be shocked if the Denver Broncos trade up in the first round of the NFL Draft to get Alabama runner Eddie Lacy.

Hall of Fame For tickets or tables to the 2013 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame dinner on Oct. 29, call Cara Jorgensen at 634-7333, ext. 1007, or e-mail cara@thesportscorp.org.

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